MARVEL
STAR WARS
AGE OF
RESISTANCE

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STAR WARS: RESISTANCE SPECIAL #1

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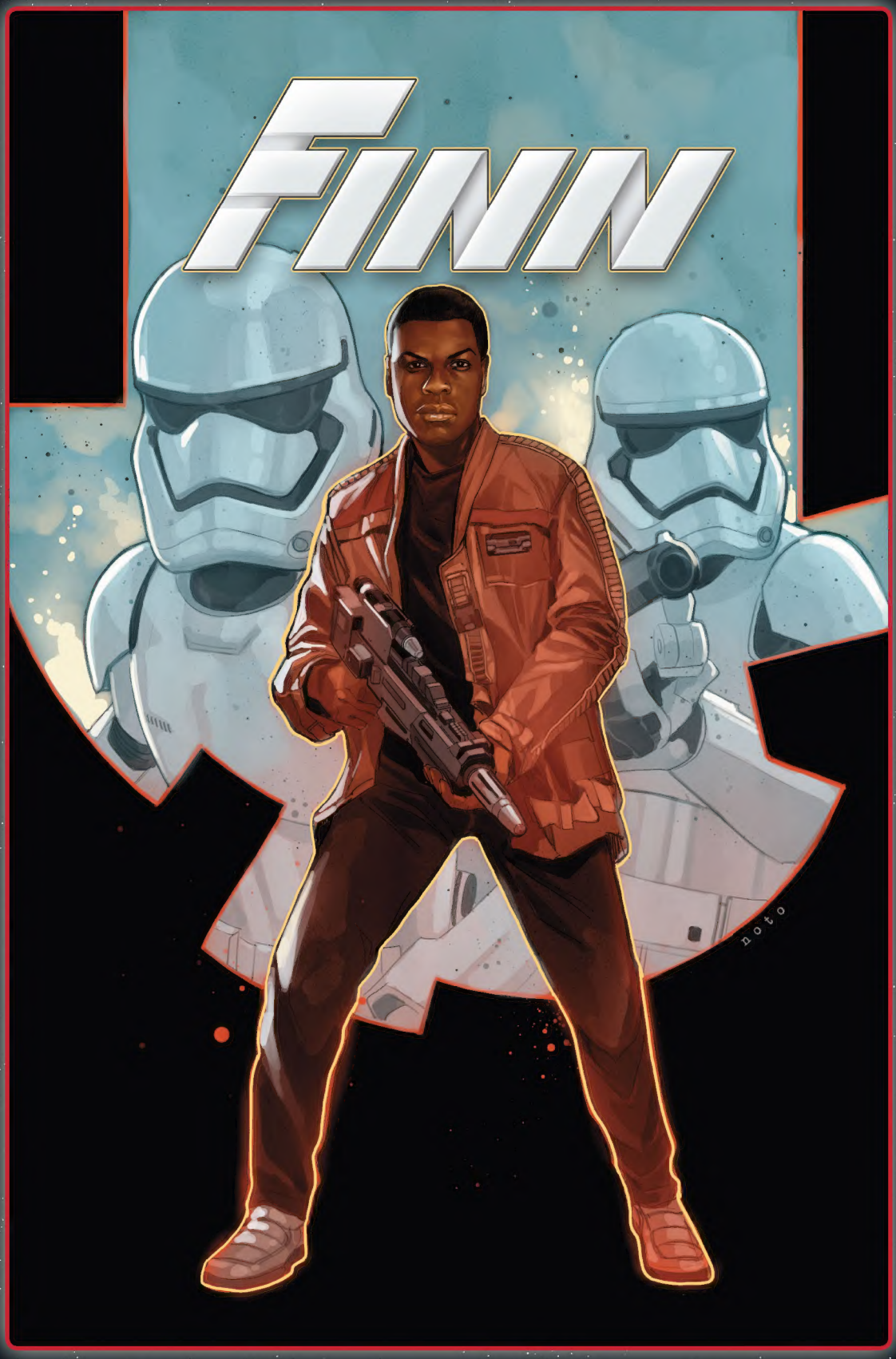


"INFESTATION"

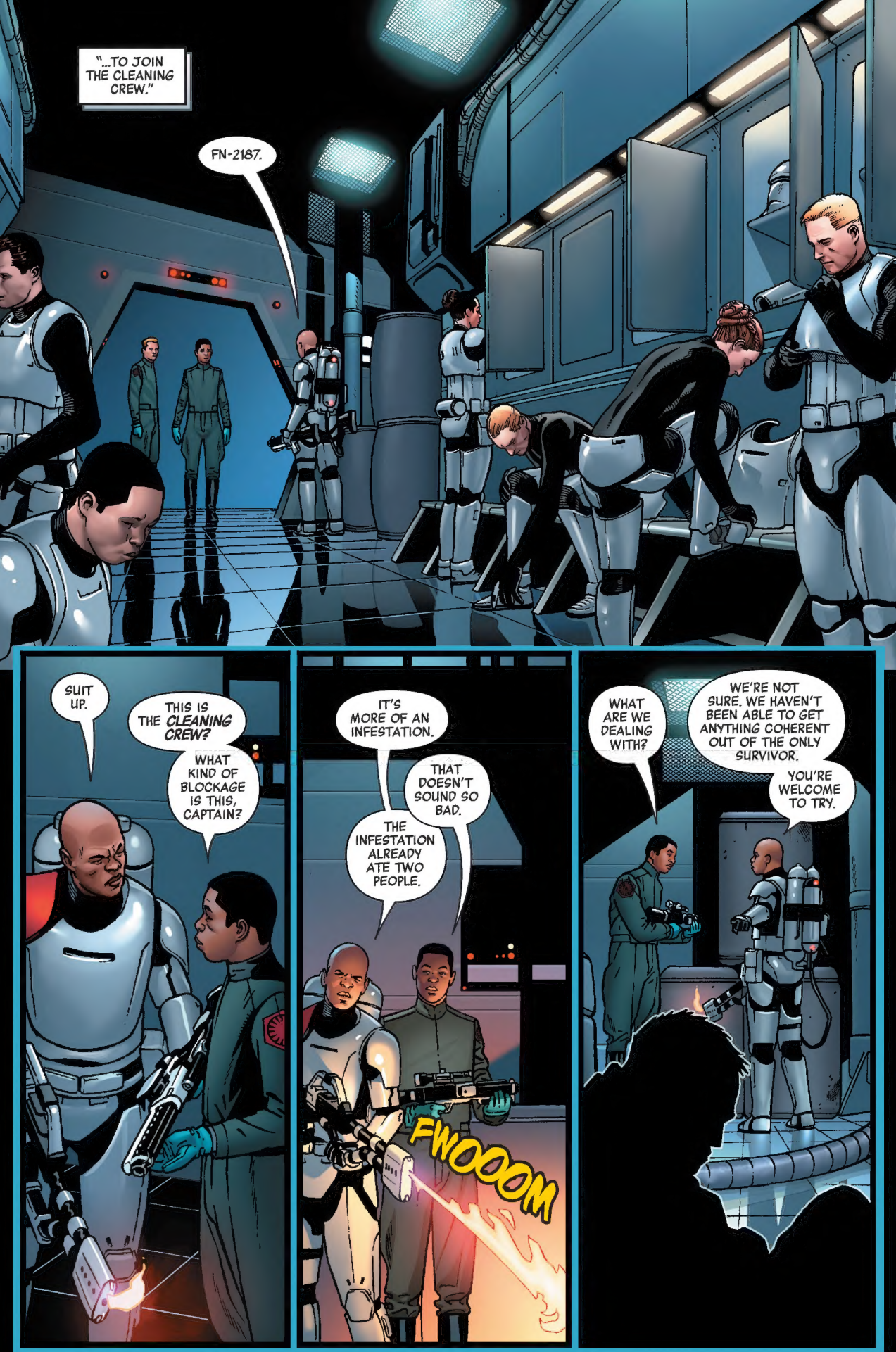
The Republic maintains peace and order in the galaxy after the fall of the Empire. But the evil First Order, modeled after the old regime, rises in its ashes. And with an untold number of powerful weapons of war and legions of dogmatic stormtroopers at its disposal, the First Order stands poised to overthrow the new galactic government.

But there may be one trooper who isn't totally buying what the First Order is selling....

Starkiller Base.
"PREPARE.
"PREPARE FOR ANNIHILATION.
"YOU CANNOT WITHSTAND THIS AWESOME POWER.
"FEAR..."

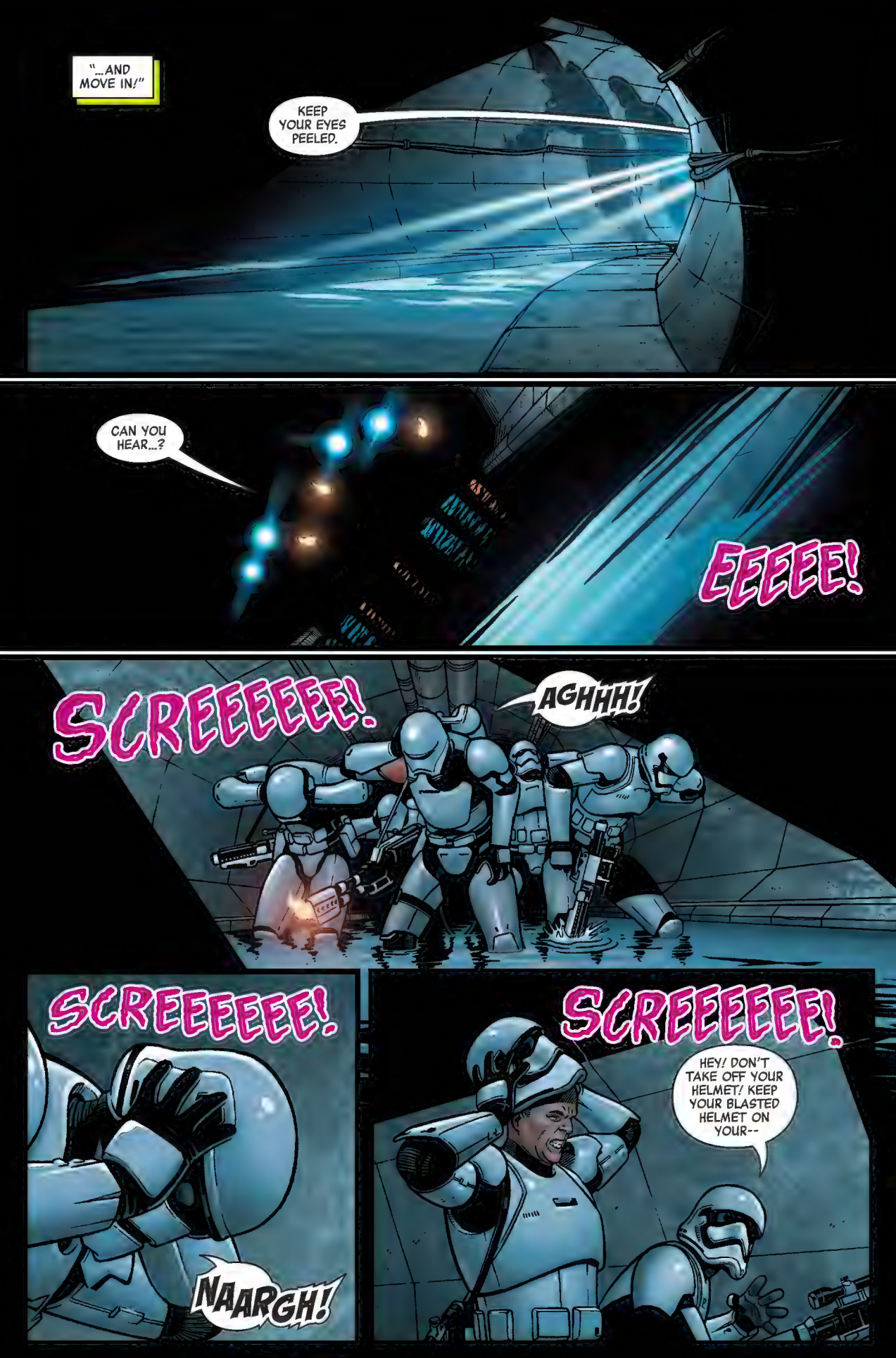
FEAR MY MOP!!!
SHHHH.
WHAT? I'M DESTROYING GRIME.
I DON'T THINK WE'RE ALLOWED TO ENJOY THIS, FN-2187.
WHOA.
WHAT IS IT?
"KYLO REN.
"HE'S COMING THIS WAY."
WHAT DO I DO, FN-3761?
HUH?
THE MOP. DO I HOLD IT, OR--
ATTENTION!!!

DRIP
DRIP
PHEW.
FN-2187!
CAPTAIN PHASMA!
IS A MOP A STANDARD-ISSUE BLASTER?
NO.
NO. SO PUT IT DOWN.
WE HAVE A... SITUATION.
A CONSTRUCTION UNIT ENCOUNTERED A BLOCKAGE WHILE BUILDING A FLOOD CHAMBER.
THE TWO OF YOU ARE TO REPORT TO DECK NINE...


"...TO JOIN THE CLEANING CREW."
FN-2187.
SUIT UP.
THIS IS THE CLEANING CREW?
WHAT KIND OF BLOCKAGE IS THIS, CAPTAIN?
IT'S MORE OF AN INFESTATION.
THAT DOESN'T SOUND SO BAD.
THE INFESTATION ALREADY ATE TWO PEOPLE.
FWOOOM
WHAT ARE WE DEALING WITH?
WE'RE NOT SURE. WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET ANYTHING COHERENT OUT OF THE ONLY SURVIVOR.
YOU'RE WELCOME TO TRY.

HEY.
CAN YOU TELL US WHAT'S DOWN THERE?
SCREAMS IN THE DARK.
FURY.
THAT'S...NOT AS DESCRIPTIVE AS YOU MAY THINK.
RAGE.
AGAIN, COULD YOU BE A LITTLE MORE SPECIFIC?
IS THE FURY AND RAGE, LIKE, THIS TALL, OR...?
TIME TO GO!
THE RAGE...
YEAH?
IT HAS TEETH.

POWER'S OUT IN THERE.
WE'RE GONNA BE IN THE DARK.
SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT.
WHY DON'T WE JUST FILL THIS THING WITH EXPLOSIVES?
BECAUSE, FN-3761, THIS TUNNEL IS WORTH A LOT MORE TO THE FIRST ORDER THAN YOU ARE.
BUCKETS ON...

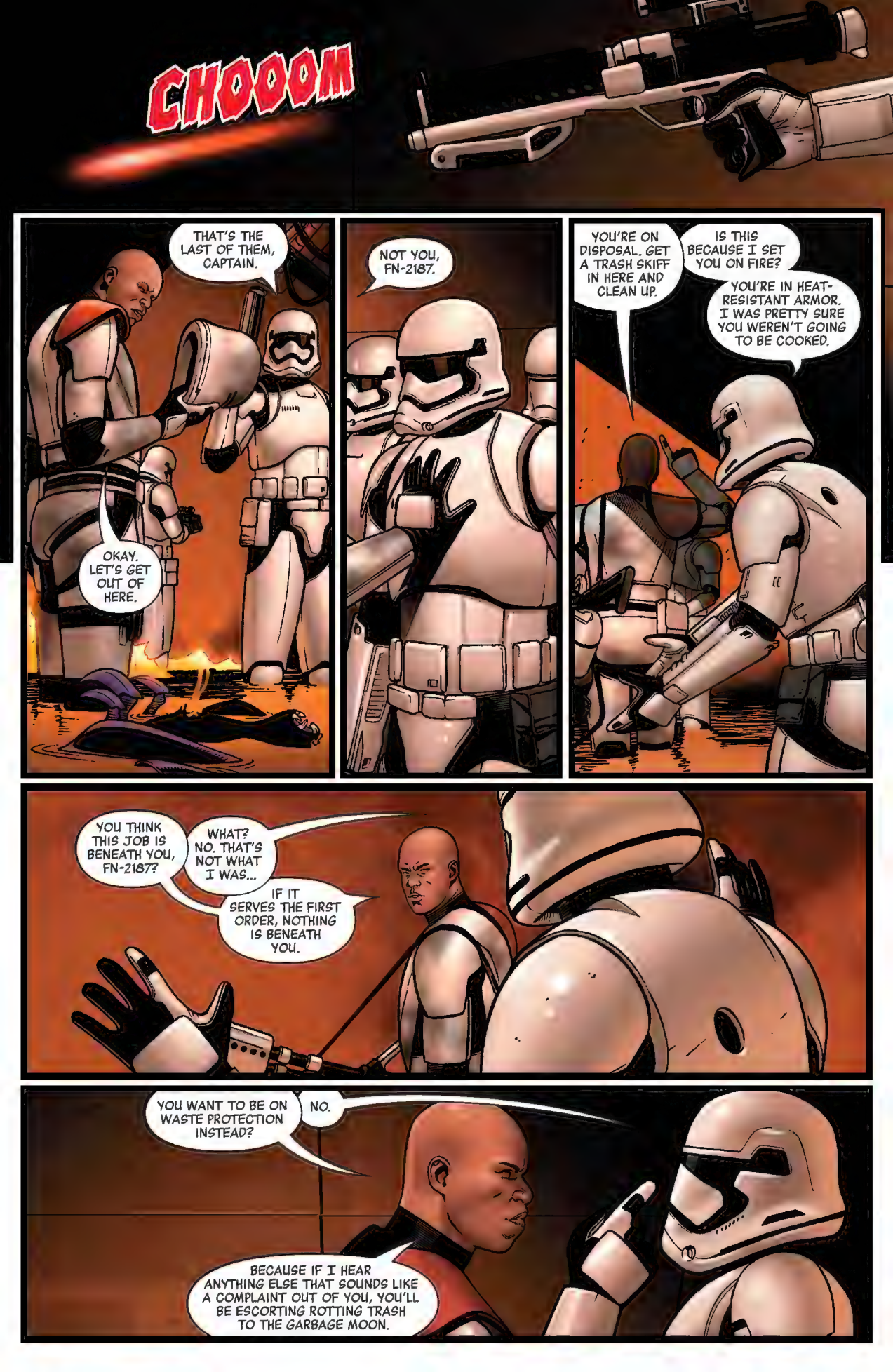

"...AND MOVE IN!"
KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED.
CAN YOU HEAR...?
EEEEE!
SCREEEEEEE!
AGHHH!
SCREEEEEEE!
NAARGH!
SCREEEEEEE!
HEY! DON'T TAKE OFF YOUR HELMET! KEEP YOUR BLASTED HELMET ON YOUR--

SCRUNCH
SCREEEEEEE!
FIRE! FIRE! FIRE!!!
FWOOM
SCREEEEEE!
FWOOOOM
SCREEE!
CHOOM CHOOOM

SCREEEEEE!
GET OFF!
GET--
CNK
SCREEEEEEE!
CAPTAIN BRAY!
HNF!
SCREE!
SCREEEEEEEEEEE!
FN-2187!
HNNG!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHAT ARE YOU--?

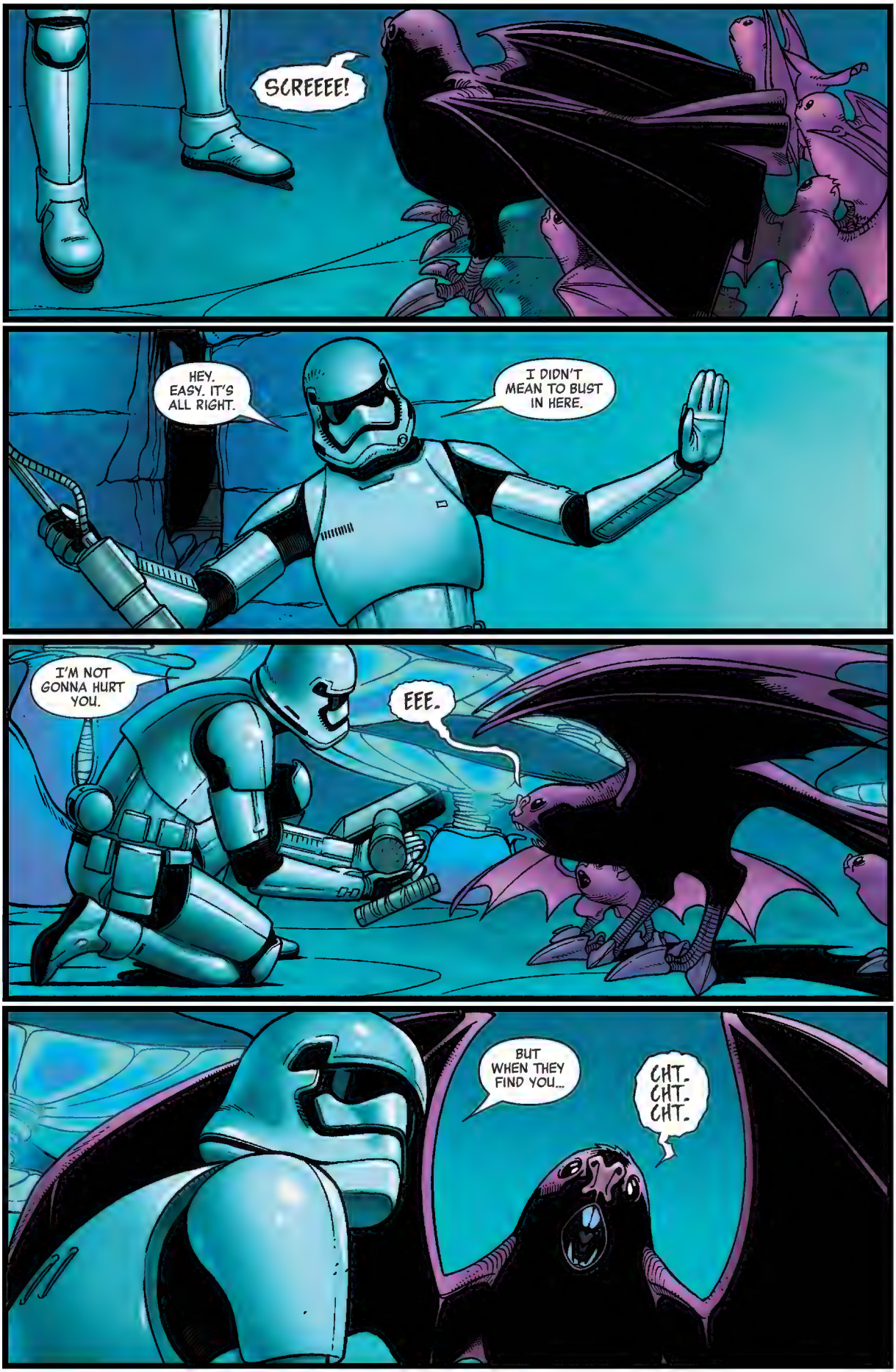
FWOOOOOOM

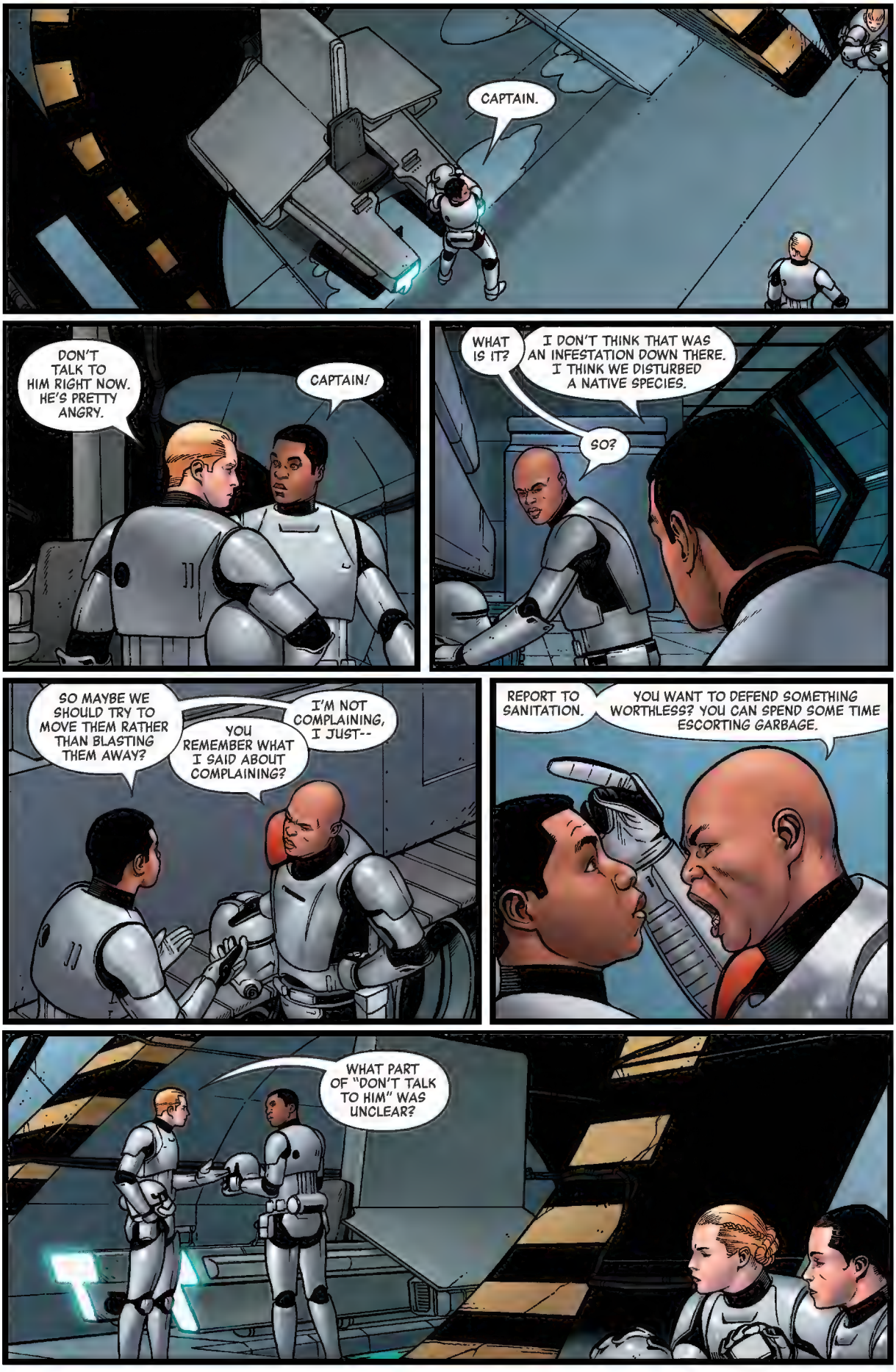
CAPTAIN?
OW.


CHOOOM
THAT'S THE LAST OF THEM, CAPTAIN.
OKAY. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
NOT YOU, FN-2187.
YOU'RE ON DISPOSAL. GET A TRASH SKIFF IN HERE AND CLEAN UP.
IS THIS BECAUSE I SET YOU ON FIRE?
YOU'RE IN HEAT-RESISTANT ARMOR. I WAS PRETTY SURE YOU WEREN'T GOING TO BE COOKED.
YOU THINK THIS JOB IS BENEATH YOU, FN-2187?
WHAT? NO. THAT'S NOT WHAT I WAS...
IF IT SERVES THE FIRST ORDER, NOTHING IS BENEATH YOU.
YOU WANT TO BE ON WASTE PROTECTION INSTEAD?
NO.
BECAUSE IF I HEAR ANYTHING ELSE THAT SOUNDS LIKE A COMPLAINT OUT OF YOU, YOU'LL BE ESCORTING ROTTING TRASH TO THE GARBAGE MOON.

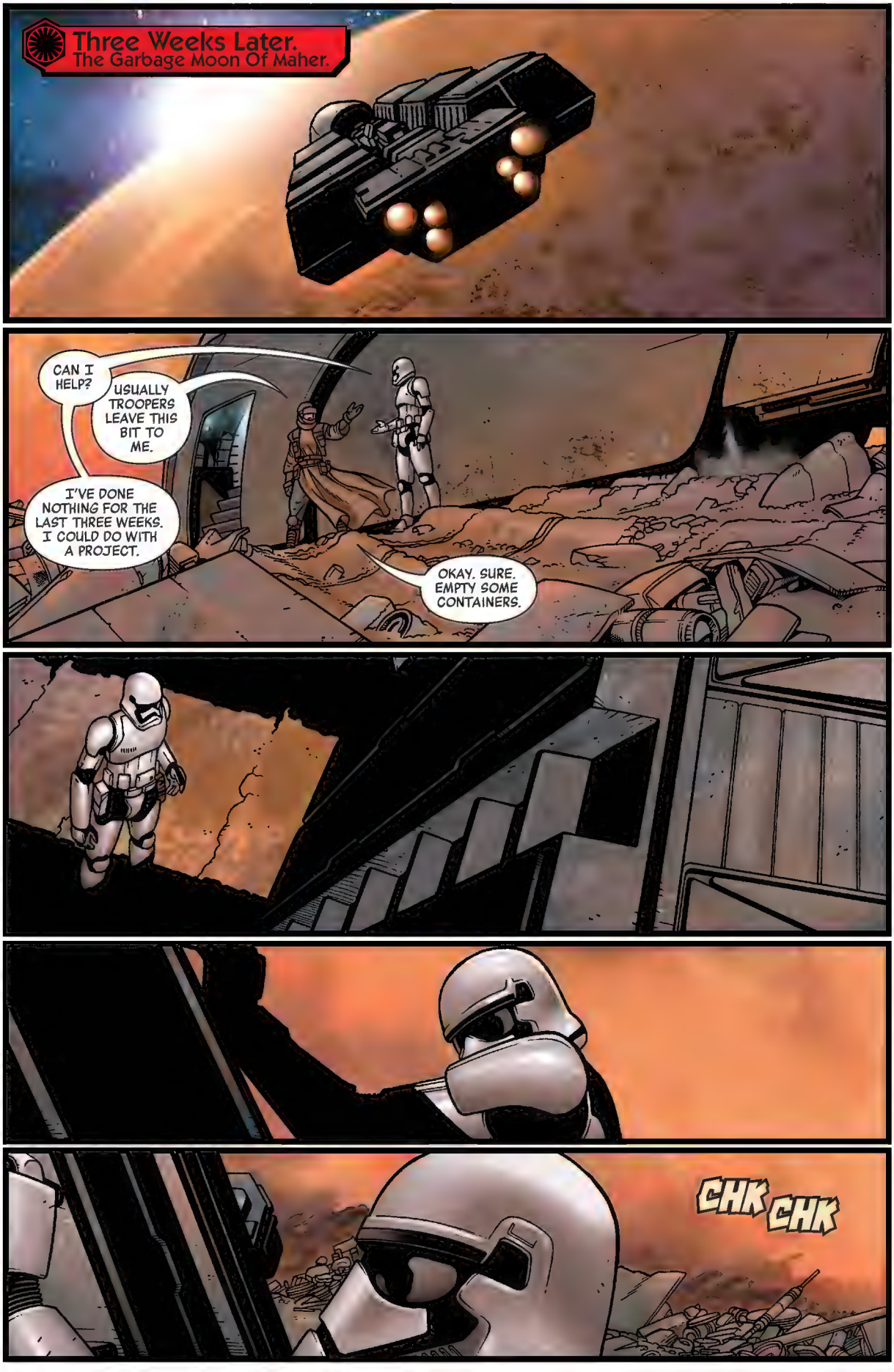
Later.
ONLY SET HIM ON FIRE A LITTLE BIT...
EEE!
EEE!
HELMET.
HELMET!
YOU'RE NOT EATING MY HEAD.
I NEED IT FOR THINKING!
OKAY...
EEE!
I'M READY FOR YOU.
EEE!
OH...

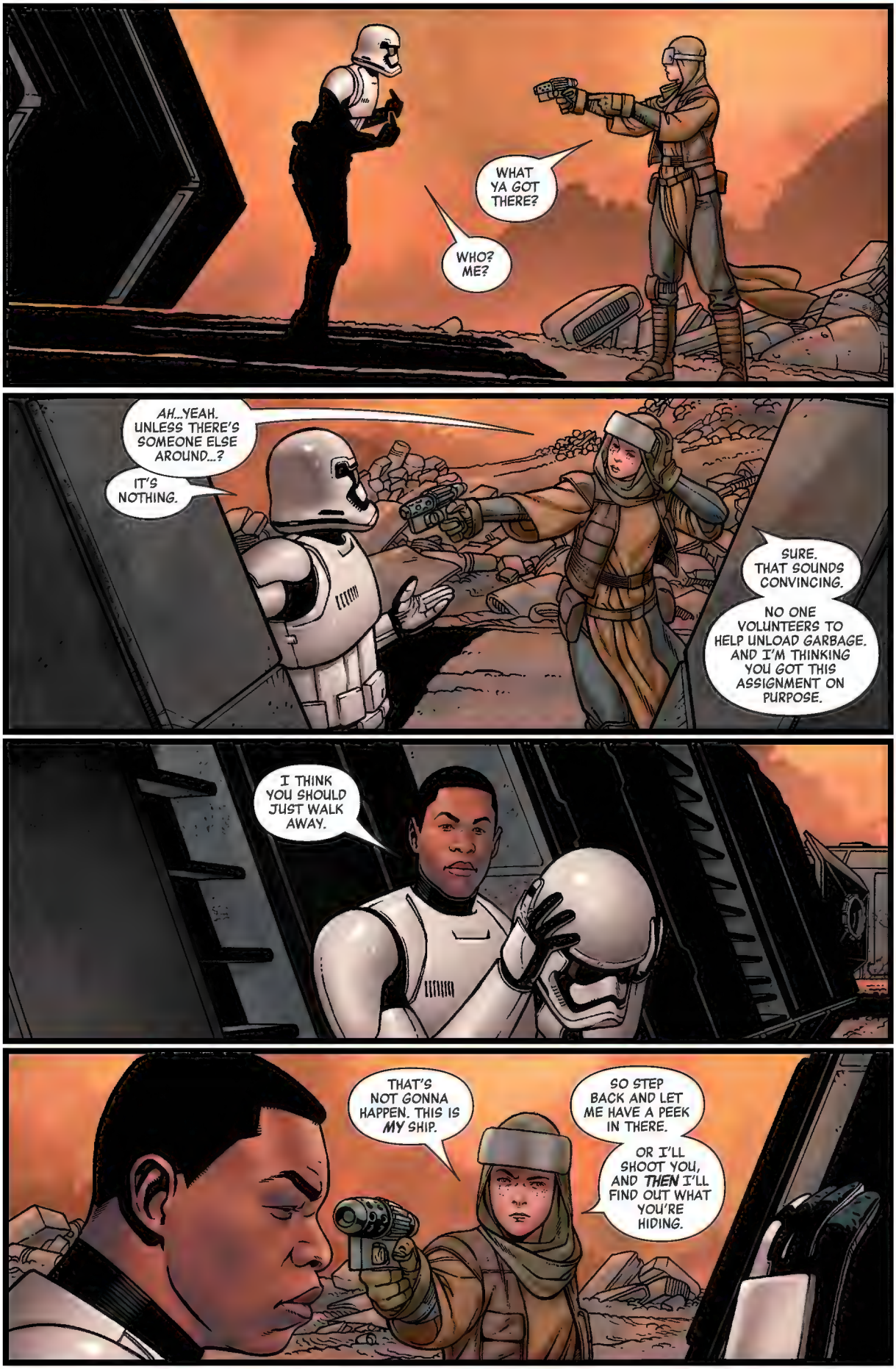
THIS ISN'T AN INFESTATION.
THIS IS YOUR HOME.


SCREEEE!
HEY. EASY. IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO BUST IN HERE.
I'M NOT GONNA HURT YOU.
EEE.
BUT WHEN THEY FIND YOU...
CHT. CHT. CHT.

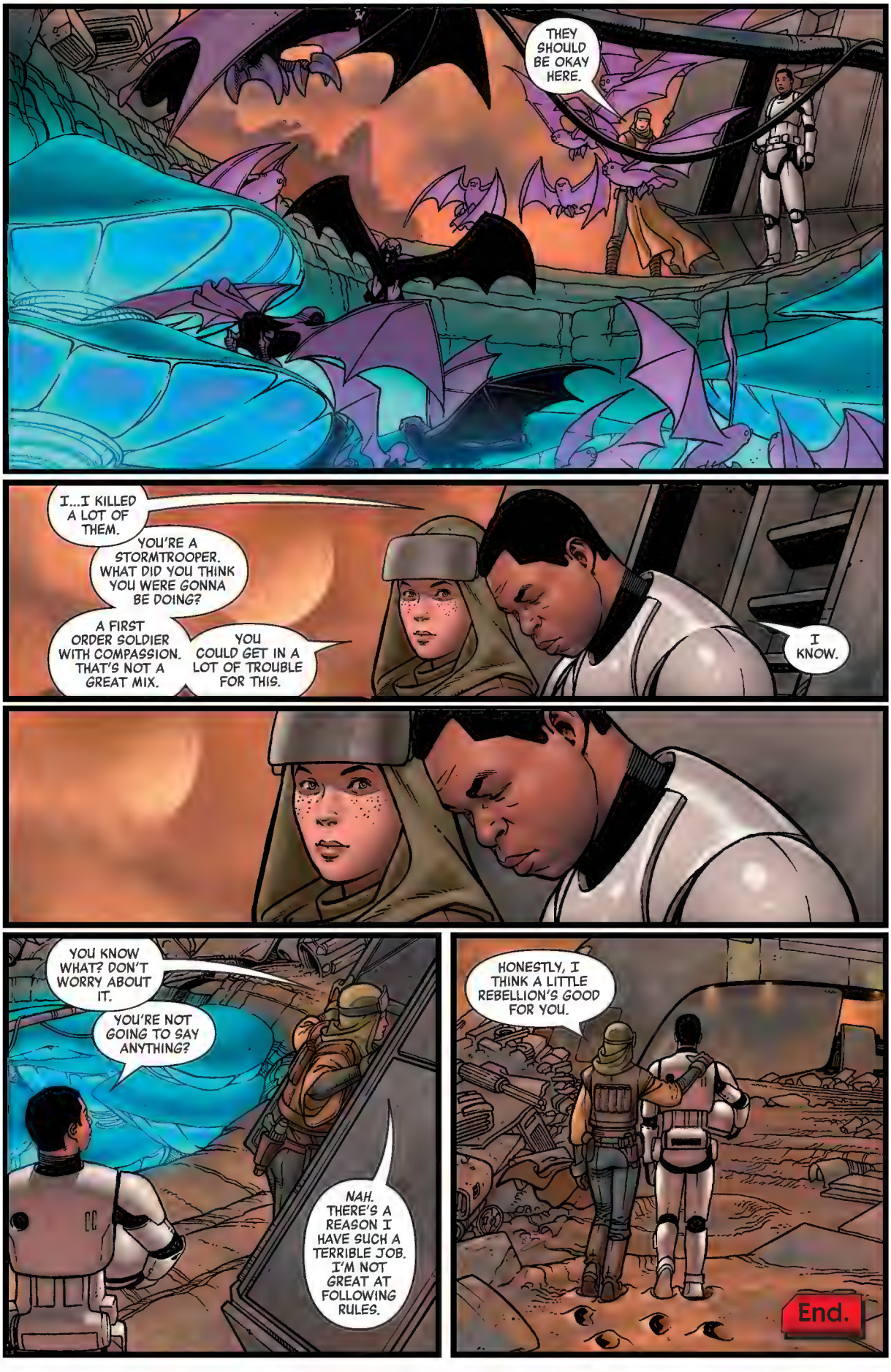

CAPTAIN.
DON'T TALK TO HIM RIGHT NOW. HE'S PRETTY ANGRY.
CAPTAIN!
WHAT IS IT?
I DON'T THINK THAT WAS AN INFESTATION DOWN THERE. I THINK WE DISTURBED A NATIVE SPECIES.
SO?
SO MAYBE WE SHOULD TRY TO MOVE THEM RATHER THAN BLASTING THEM AWAY?
YOU REMEMBER WHAT I SAID ABOUT COMPLAINING?
I'M NOT COMPLAINING, I JUST--
REPORT TO SANITATION.
YOU WANT TO DEFEND SOMETHING WORTHLESS? YOU CAN SPEND SOME TIME ESCORTING GARBAGE.
WHAT PART OF "DON'T TALK TO HIM" WAS UNCLEAR?

YOU THE GARBAGE ESCORT?
YEAH.
WHAT DID YA DO TO LAND THIS?
I... KINDA SET MY CAPTAIN ON FIRE.
THAT'LL DO IT. I'M MARIALEW. WHAT'S YA NAME?
FN-2187.
WELL, THAT REALLY ROLLS OFF THE TONGUE.
WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?
DO? YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING. NO ONE TRIES TO STEAL GARBAGE.
HITCH THAT LOAD YOU BROUGHT, SIT IN THE BACK AND TRY NOT TO SMELL ANYTHING FOR THREE WEEKS.
THREE WEEKS?
YOU DON'T HAVE A FASTER HYPERDRIVE?
WE'RE TRANSPORTING TRASH. YOU THINK ANYONE CARES HOW FAST WE MOVE?


Three Weeks Later.
The Garbage Moon Of Maher.
CAN I HELP?
USUALLY TROOPERS LEAVE THIS BIT TO ME.
I'VE DONE NOTHING FOR THE LAST THREE WEEKS. I COULD DO WITH A PROJECT.
OKAY. SURE. EMPTY SOME CONTAINERS.
CHK CHK


WHAT YA GOT THERE?
WHO? ME?
AH...YEAH. UNLESS THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE AROUND...?
IT'S NOTHING.
SURE. THAT SOUNDS CONVINCING.
NO ONE VOLUNTEERS TO HELP UNLOAD GARBAGE. AND I'M THINKING YOU GOT THIS ASSIGNMENT ON PURPOSE.
I THINK YOU SHOULD JUST WALK AWAY.
THAT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN. THIS IS MY SHIP.
SO STEP BACK AND LET ME HAVE A PEEK IN THERE.
OR I'LL SHOOT YOU, AND THEN I'LL FIND OUT WHAT YOU'RE HIDING.

CHT. CHT.
EE.
EEE.
AH. THESE LITTLE GUYS.
YOU KNOW THEM?
SURE. WE'VE DUG UP A LOT OF THEIR PLANET AND DUMPED IT HERE. I'VE FOUND THEM A FEW TIMES.
BRING THE CONTAINER. FOLLOW ME.


THEY SHOULD BE OKAY HERE.
I...I KILLED A LOT OF THEM.
YOU'RE A STORMTROOPER. WHAT DID YOU THINK YOU WERE GONNA BE DOING?
A FIRST ORDER SOLDIER WITH COMPASSION. THAT'S NOT A GREAT MIX.
YOU COULD GET IN A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR THIS.
I KNOW.
YOU KNOW WHAT? DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SAY ANYTHING?
NAH. THERE'S A REASON I HAVE SUCH A TERRIBLE JOB. I'M NOT GREAT AT FOLLOWING RULES.
HONESTLY, I THINK A LITTLE REBELLION'S GOOD FOR YOU.
End.

I'M GONNA CALL YOU FINN

The Evolution of FN-2187: From Stormtrooper to Resistance Hero

By Bryan Young

When George Lucas initially set out to make a new *Star Wars* film, he had lots of ideas. First, the art department gathered and came up with all kinds of imagery, and then he hired a writer to bring the ideas for the sequel trilogy to life. The first screenwriter to work on *The Force Awakens* was Michael Arndt, and one of the most difficult pieces of the puzzle to crack was the role of Finn. What would his place in the universe be? He told the *Entertainment Weekly* podcast about that point in the process, after both Lawrence Kasdan and J.J. Abrams had come on board to help. "We were struggling…I remember we talked about pirates and merchant marines and all this stuff, and finally Larry [Kasdan] got pissed at all of us and he's just like, "You guys, you're not thinking big. What if he's a stormtrooper that ran away?"
It was in this fit of creative exasperation from the writer of *The Empire Strikes Back* that Finn's real place in the Skywalker saga was first found.

THERE HAS BEEN AN AWAKENING

There's a desert landscape and the strike of a harsh note of John Williams music. An unfamiliar stormtrooper without a helmet rises into frame, pouring sweat and panting. This would be the world's first official introduction to Finn, from the first teaser trailer to *The Force Awakens*.

But who was he? Where had he come from?

This was FN-2187, whose number is dripping in *Star Wars* history of its own—this was the cell block Princess Leia was held in aboard the Death Star. "We didn't get a chance to go back into Finn's day-to-day life as a stormtrooper," John Boyega said in an interview at Awesome Con in 2018. "You didn't get a chance to see the years he had to stay quiet and try to submit to a movement that he doesn't truly believe in. Playing that, in the beginning, was very, very important so people felt like they could go on this journey with him and [believe] his convictions to take a stand and leave."

In *The Force Awakens*, Finn realized he's not cut out to be a stormtrooper and did what he had to to escape that life, but his primary interest was still self-preservation, even though he made some important friends along the way. But is he a hero? Finn certainly doesn't seem to think so.

LEARN YOU SOMETHING BIG

Finn's desire to not die in the war between the First Order and the Resistance comes into focus in *The Last Jedi*, where the film explores his dilemma. Rose Tico acts as an angel on one shoulder, and DJ acts as the devil on the other. Each of them tries to show him the benefits of the two paths before him. Rose's respect and admiration for Finn is something he can earn for choosing a side that would stand against evil. DJ's ambivalence about the conflict is equally attractive to Finn; this shady character has no qualms walking out in the middle of a situation to save his own hide, no matter the cost.

It's only when Finn sees the true cost of "remaining neutral" that he's finally able to pick a side.

Through *The Force Awakens* and *The Last Jedi*, Finn's only thought was to save Rey, whom he'd found a connection with, and to get away safely; the cause of the Resistance wasn't his. Though the realization that he cared for Rey came as his head was on a literal chopping block, Finn's new conviction was as real as if it had been there the whole time. His evolution from stormtrooper to Resistance fighter was not an easy one, nor was it quick, but the seeds had been there from the beginning, and it fueled his fight against Captain Phasma and the system that created him.

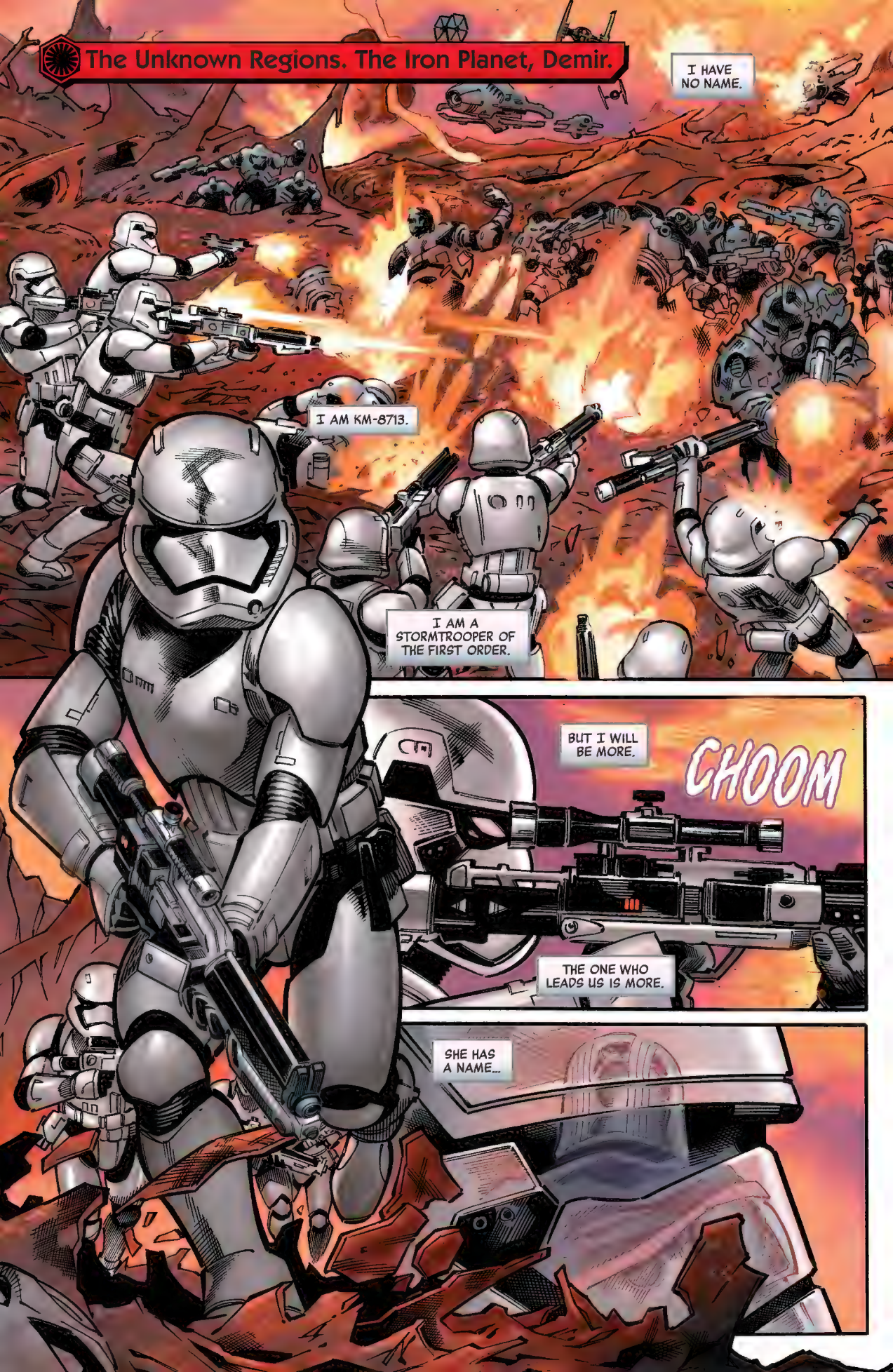
"You were always scum," Phasma told Finn, but he got the last word.

"Rebel scum."
And it was true.

"FALLEN GUNS"

The New Republic maintains peace and order after the fall of the Empire. But the evil First Order, modeled after the old regime, rises from its ashes. And with an untold number of powerful war machines and legions of dogmatic stormtroopers at its disposal, the First Order stands poised to seize control of the galaxy.

And one ruthless stormtrooper could be the weapon of war that leads the First Order to total victory...


The Unknown Regions. The Iron Planet, Demir.
I HAVE NO NAME.
I AM KM-8713.
I AM A STORMTROOPER OF THE FIRST ORDER.
BUT I WILL BE MORE.
CHOOM
THE ONE WHO LEADS US IS MORE.
SHE HAS A NAME...

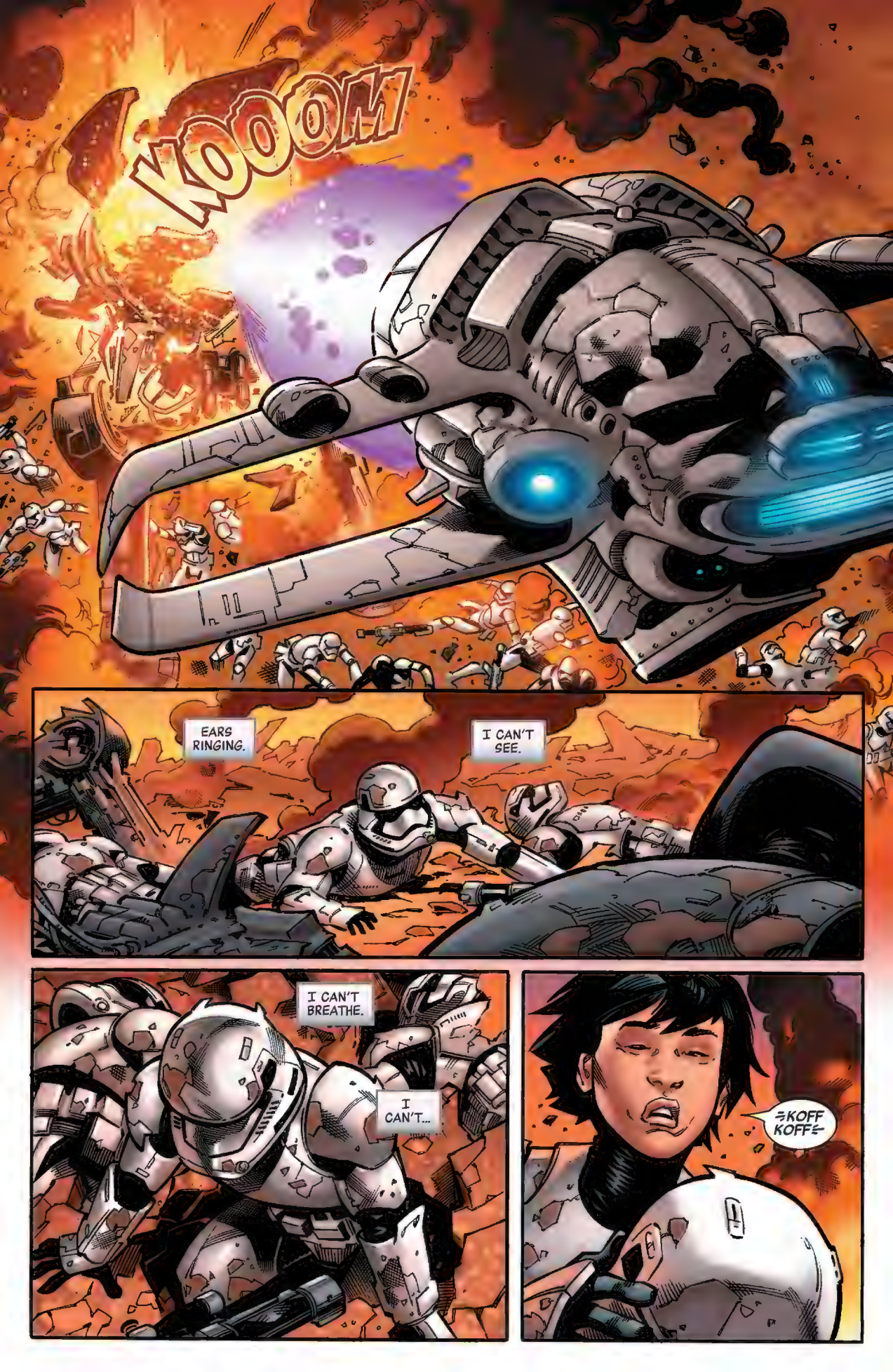
SHE IS PHASMA.

CHOOOM

FOR GLORY! FOR THE FIRST ORDER!

HALT.
CHOOM
LET THE WALKER DO ITS JOB.
FTOOM FTOOM FTOOM
IT WILL CLEAR A PATH TO THE STRONGHOLD.
BE READY TO CHARGE.
DO NOT HESITATE. DO NOT SECOND-GUESS.
YOU ARE IN MY COMMAND.
YOU ARE ANOTHER GUN I HOLD.
IF YOUR AIM ISN'T TRUE. IF YOU FALTER. THEN YOU ARE NO LONGER A GUN. NO LONGER WORTHY TO BE IN MY HAND.
NO LONGER WORTHY TO SERVE THE FIRST ORDER.

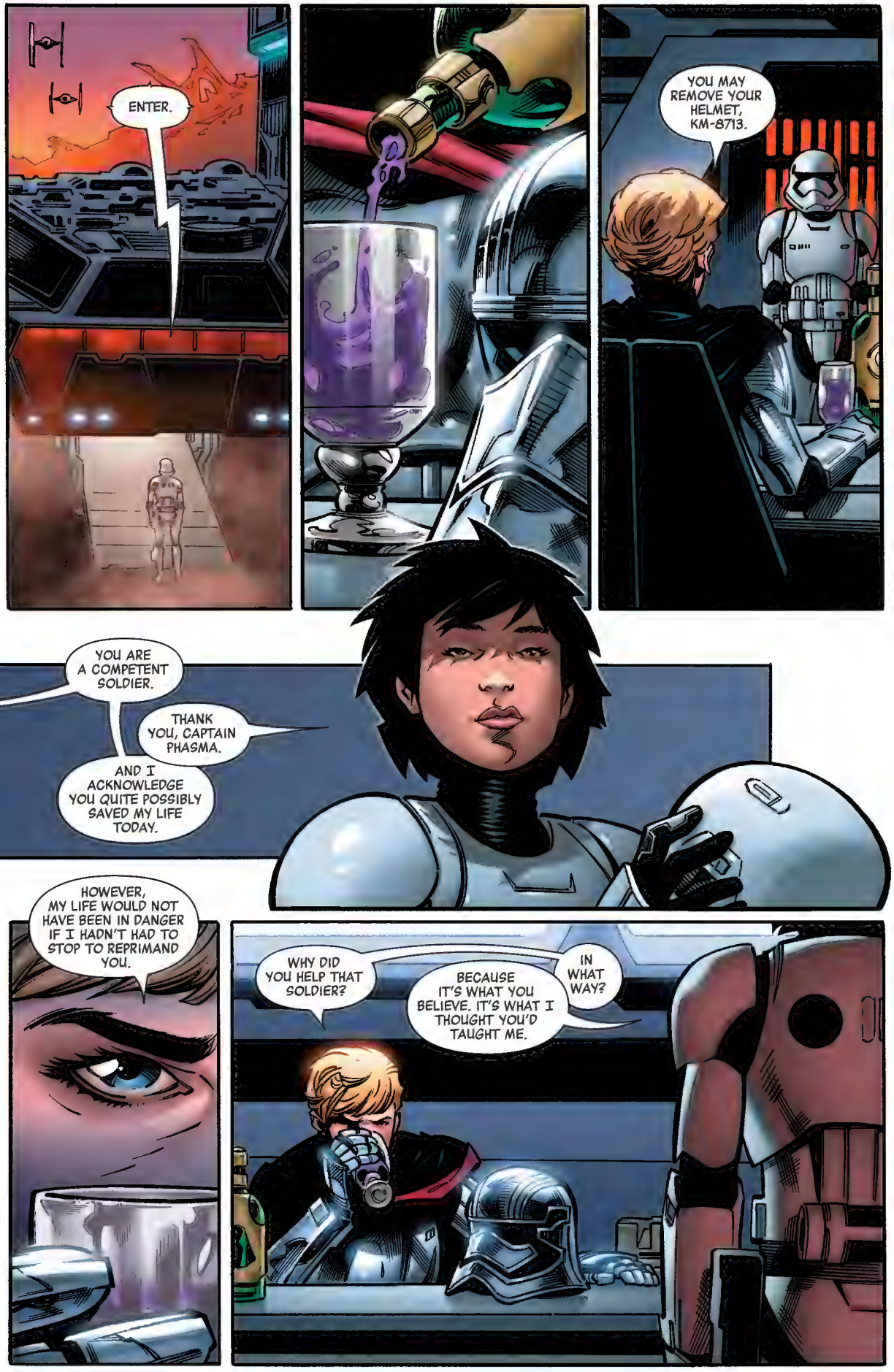
CAPTAIN!
WUUMMMM
IT'S CHARGING UP TO FIRE!
DOWN! GET DOWN!!!

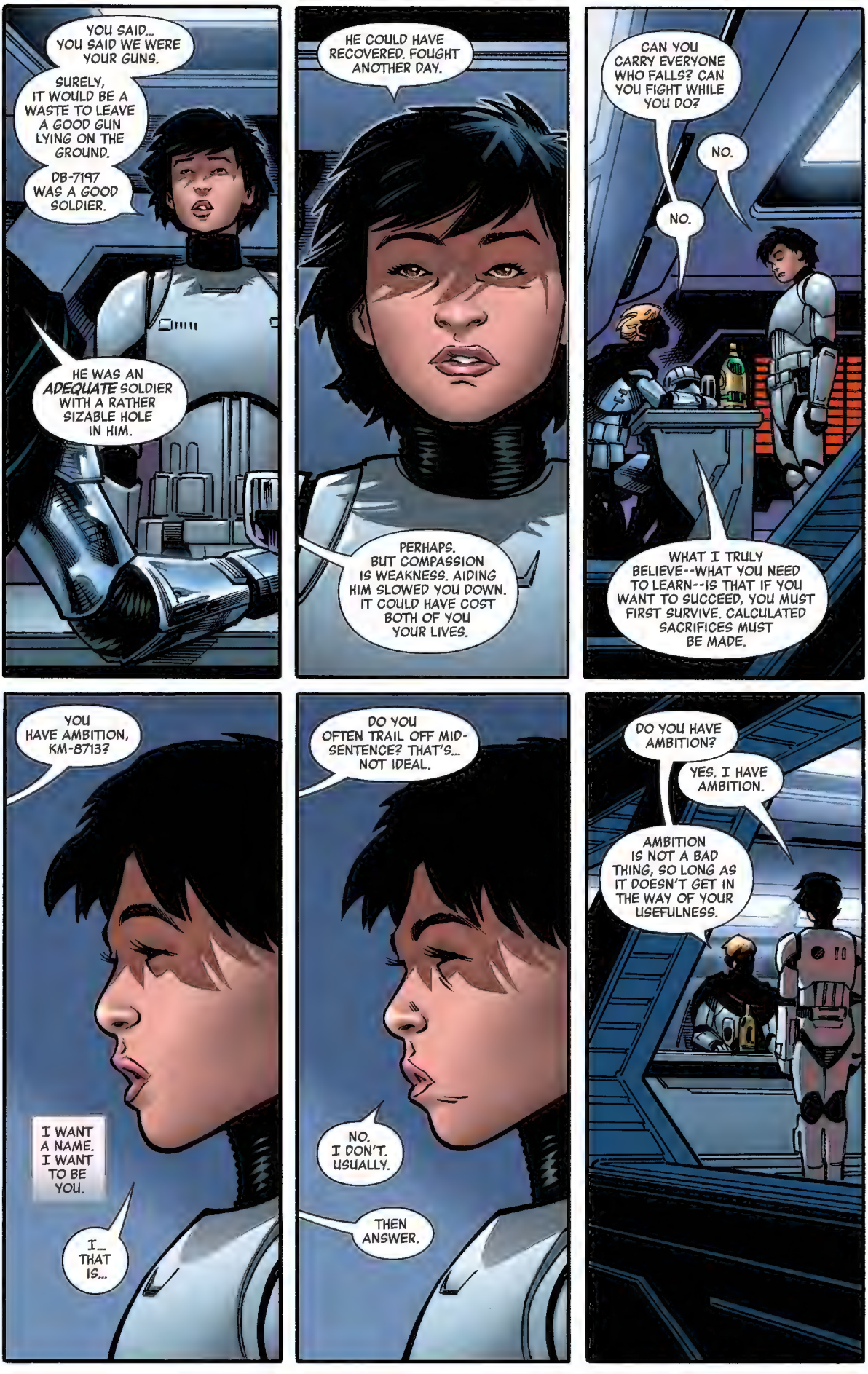

KOOOM
EARS RINGING.
I CAN'T SEE.
I CAN'T BREATHE.
I CAN'T...
=KOFF KOFF=

DB-7197!
ON YOUR FEET.
HNNNG!
COME ON.
HURTS...
IT'S OKAY. HOLD ON TO ME. JUST LIKE BASIC TRAINING. WE STARTED THIS TOGETHER. WE'LL END IT TOGETHER. I WON'T LEAVE YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
LEAVE HIM.
I...I CAN BRING HIM. HE WON'T SLOW US DOWN.
THAT WAS AN ORDER, KM-8713. NOT A *SUGGESTION.*
I--

CAPTAIN PHASMA!
LOOK OUT!
CHOOM
NAARGH!!
HNN...
DEET DEET
THERMAL DETONATOR!
YES. I CAN SEE THAT.

YOU. BE USEFUL.
WHAT?
DB-7197!
DEET
DEET
NO!
DEE
DEE
DEEEEEE
TOOOOM
WE'RE PULLING OUT TO REGROUP.
REPORT TO MY COMMAND SHUTTLE. WE WILL DISCUSS WHAT OCCURRED HERE TODAY.
CNK


ENTER.
YOU MAY REMOVE YOUR HELMET, KM-8713.
YOU ARE A COMPETENT SOLDIER.
THANK YOU, CAPTAIN PHASMA.
AND I ACKNOWLEDGE YOU QUITE POSSIBLY SAVED MY LIFE TODAY.
HOWEVER, MY LIFE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN IN DANGER IF I HADN'T HAD TO STOP TO REPRIMAND YOU.
WHY DID YOU HELP THAT SOLDIER?
BECAUSE IT'S WHAT YOU BELIEVE. IT'S WHAT I THOUGHT YOU'D TAUGHT ME.
IN WHAT WAY?


YOU SAID... YOU SAID WE WERE YOUR GUNS.
SURELY, IT WOULD BE A WASTE TO LEAVE A GOOD GUN LYING ON THE GROUND.
DB-7197 WAS A GOOD SOLDIER.
HE WAS AN ADEQUATE SOLDIER WITH A RATHER SIZABLE HOLE IN HIM.
HE COULD HAVE RECOVERED. FOUGHT ANOTHER DAY.
PERHAPS. BUT COMPASSION IS WEAKNESS. AIDING HIM SLOWED YOU DOWN. IT COULD HAVE COST BOTH OF YOU YOUR LIVES.
CAN YOU CARRY EVERYONE WHO FALLS? CAN YOU FIGHT WHILE YOU DO?
NO.
NO.
WHAT I TRULY BELIEVE--WHAT YOU NEED TO LEARN--IS THAT IF YOU WANT TO SUCCEED, YOU MUST FIRST SURVIVE. CALCULATED SACRIFICES MUST BE MADE.
YOU HAVE AMBITION, KM-8713?
I WANT A NAME. I WANT TO BE YOU.
I... THAT IS...
DO YOU OFTEN TRAIL OFF MID-SENTENCE? THAT'S... NOT IDEAL.
NO. I DON'T. USUALLY.
THEN ANSWER.
DO YOU HAVE AMBITION?
YES. I HAVE AMBITION.
AMBITION IS NOT A BAD THING, SO LONG AS IT DOESN'T GET IN THE WAY OF YOUR USEFULNESS.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I WANT TO FOLLOW IN YOUR FOOTSTEPS.
I WANT TO SERVE THE FIRST ORDER.
I WANT TO LEAD.
THEN IGNORE THE ONES WHO FALL.
YOU CANNOT LEAD WHILE LOOKING BACK.
YOU CANNOT SEE YOUR GOAL IF YOU'RE LOOKING OVER YOUR SHOULDER.
I UNDERSTAND.
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD. I SEE SOME OF MYSELF IN YOU. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE.
I'M PROMOTING YOU.
TOMORROW, AT DAWN, WE WILL STRIKE THE NATIVES AGAIN.
THEIR BASE HOLDS STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE TO THE FIRST ORDER, OR WE WOULD SIMPLY DESTROY IT. WE MUST TAKE IT.
AND YOU WILL TAKE IT AS AN OFFICER.

Dawn.
THIS FIELD WILL BE OUR VICTORY GROUND. WE WILL SUCCEED WHERE TOO MANY FAILED YESTERDAY.
WE WILL SEIZE CONTROL OF THE DEMIRIAN STRONGHOLD.
NO MATTER WHAT COMES OUT OF THOSE DOORS, WE WILL STAND TALL. WE WILL SHOW THEM THE COURAGE OF THE FIRST ORDER.
ON YOUR COMMAND, KM-8713.

CHARGE!!!
BE READY!
THE DOORS ARE OPENING!
FIRE! FIRE!!!

RMMMMBLE
CHOOM CHOOM
CHOOM CHOOM CHOOM
WUMMM
KOOOOM
AAARGHHH!

HNNG...
CAN YOU CARRY EVERYONE WHO FALLS?
WE HAVE MULTIPLE CASUALTIES AND WOUNDED, LIEUTENANT!
CAN YOU FIGHT WHILE YOU DO?
WE CAN'T POSSIBLY PENETRATE THAT ARMOR! WE'RE COMPLETELY EXPOSED OUT HERE.
KEEP FIRING!
FOR GLORY! FOR THE FIRST ORDER!
CHOOOOM
FOR...

CAPTAIN PHASMA!
YOU LOOKED BACK.
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
NOTHING. YOU HAVE DRAWN OUT THE ENEMY. NOW, RETURN TO THE FIGHTING.
BUT...WE NEED YOU AT THE FRONT. WE NEED YOU TO LEAD US.
I SAID RETURN.
WE...
RRRRRRR
THAT SOUND.
TIE FIGHTERS?

TOOOM
AGHHHH!!
NO!
TOOOM
TOOOM
TOOOM
PHASMA! CALL THEM OFF! OUR PEOPLE ARE OUT THERE! OUR...
CALCULATED SACRIFICES. YOU KNEW. YOU USED THEM TO OPEN THE STRONGHOLD. TO PULL THE ENEMY INTO THE OPEN.
YES. AND I HAVE FOUGHT BRAVELY AND SURVIVED DESPITE ALL THE ODDS. AGAIN.
YOU... THE OTHER TROOPERS WILL HEAR OF YOUR BETRAYAL.
I WILL GAIN A NAME...
...I WILL KILL THE TRAITOR COWARD!
CHOOM

CAREFUL...
WHAT?
...THIS ARMOR IS WORTH FAR MORE THAN YOUR LIFE.
I AM NO COWARD.
I AM NOT AFRAID TO DO WHAT NEEDS DOING.
NOR AM I A FOOL OR A ZEALOT.
I DO NOT LEAD FROM THE FRONT. I LEAD AS ALL GREAT LEADERS DO...
...FROM BEHIND A DISPOSABLE SHIELD OF PATRIOTIC IDIOTS.
GHOOM

PH...PHASMA...
DON'T... DON'T LEAVE ME.
I CAN'T SEE MY GOAL IF I'M LOOKING OVER MY SHOULDER, KM-8713.
I AM A SURVIVOR.
TNK
AND YOU ARE JUST ANOTHER NAMELESS, FALLEN GUN.
End.

AGE OF RESISTANCE:

Captain Phasma and Her Origins—In-Universe and Out

By Bryan Young

On the surface, Captain Phasma may look like just a shiny new stormtrooper for the First Order, but when you peel back the layers of the character, something much more complicated—and much more sinister—is revealed. Beneath that chrome armor is a cunning, calculating warrior, willing to murder anyone in her path if they interfere with her life or privacy.

From the moment she appeared in advertising for *The Force Awakens*, Phasma was a fan-favorite, drawing the sort of attention that had previously been reserved for characters like Boba Fett and Darth Vader. When asked by *Entertainment Weekly* about the popularity of Phasma, the actress behind the part, Gwendoline Christie, said, "What I think people are drawn to is that this is a very progressive female character. We see Captain Phasma, and we see the costume from head to toe, and we know that it is a woman. But we are used to, in our media, connecting to female characters via the way that they look, from the way they are made flesh… We are actually connecting to a female character as a human being."

HUMAN BEGINNINGS

Captain Phasma can seem like nothing more than a metal monster, but she has very human beginnings. Thanks to Delilah S. Dawson's novel *Phasma*, we know so much more about Phasma's origin, and it's almost more *Mad Max* than *Star Wars*. In that book, we learned that she came from the planet Parnassos, a world devastated by an unscrupulous industrial concern. To survive, she learned to be ruthless and kill anyone who would oppose her leadership. Unfortunately, it would turn out that her greatest threat might have been her brother. They put aside their differences for a time to save their people, but ultimately their people weren't as important to Phasma as survival.

Once Phasma set her sights on leaving her home planet, she sold out or killed anyone who stood in her way, women and children included. Brendol Hux, the father of General Hux, was her savior, helping her get away and into the waiting arms of the First Order, who she joined with enthusiasm. But for one so private and so dedicated to the order represented by Snoke's Empire-from-the-ashes, she couldn't let the secrets from the past catch up to her.

It was Vi Moradi, the spy who brought the wounded Resistance to Batuu, who discovered that Phasma went so far as to assassinate Brendol Hux to keep her secrets and consolidate her power.

Ruthless, indeed.

REAL-WORLD ORIGINS

Captain Phasma began life as a male character, but J.J. Abrams opted to switch the gender of the character and bring in a new female villain to the franchise.

Her name, Phasma, came from Abrams himself, who told *Entertainment Weekly*, "Phasma I named because of the amazing chrome design that came from Michael Kaplan's wardrobe team. It reminded me of the ball in *Phantasm*, and I just thought Phasma sounds really cool." In the universe, however, Phasma got her reflective armor on Parnassos, cobbling it together from salvaged pieces of one of Palpatine's Naboo luxury yachts.

In *The Force Awakens*, J.J. Abrams left Phasma, famously, in the bottom of a garbage chute on Starkiller Base, just before it blew up. This posed a problem for writer/director of *The Last Jedi*, Rian Johnson. "We needed her alive here," he told *io9*. "Mostly because I wanted to hang out with Gwendoline Christie."

Regardless of his reasons, that decision to bring Phasma back to act as Finn's villainous foil spawned a comic series from Marvel that doubled down on Phasma's murderous need to keep her secrets. In *Star Wars: Captain Phasma*, she works to frame and murder an innocent member of the First Order in hope of keeping a lid on the fact that she's the one who lowered the shields on Starkiller Base.

But as ruthless as Phasma is, Gwendoline Christie still cites Princess Leia as part of her origin. "I was about 6 when I saw *[Star Wars]*," Christie said at the press conference for *The Force Awakens*, "and I remember being so struck by the character of Princess Leia and thinking even then in my infant mind, this seems different to the other women I see in films and feeling very, very inspired by that—inspired by a woman with such tenacity and being so strong-minded."

This serves to prove that Carrie Fisher inspired actresses of every generation, even those who play the most villainous of women in Star Wars.

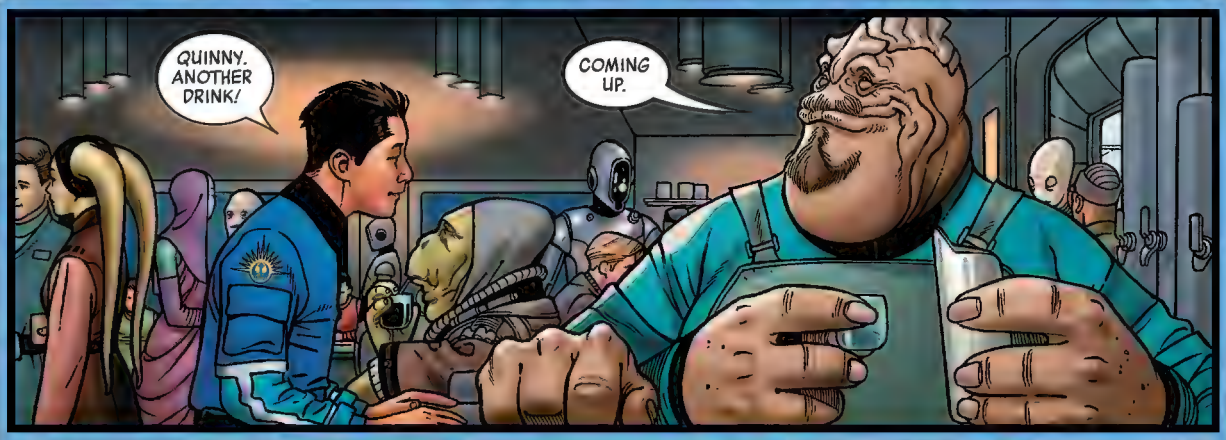
"FIGHT OR FLIGHT"

Poe Dameron was born to fly among the stars. There's no one better behind the yoke of an X-wing starfighter, and the young pilot is doing his best to help the New Republic maintain peace in the galaxy after the fall of the evil Empire. But does Poe's destiny truly lie with the Republic?

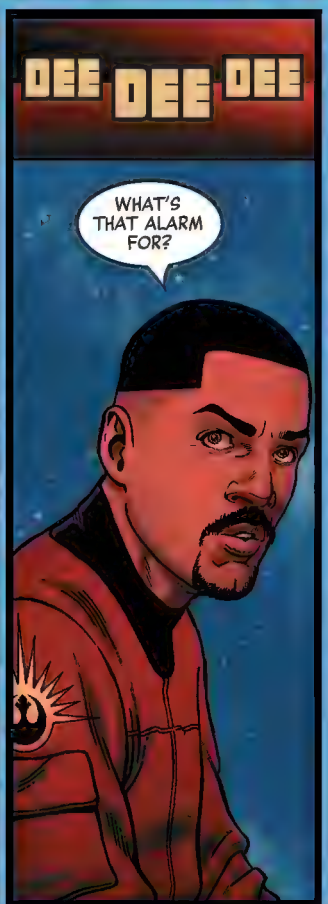
I BELONG TO THE STARS.

YOU'RE OWNED BY GIANT BALLS OF EXPLODING GAS?
HOW DID THAT TRANSACTION WORK, POE?
OKAY...MAYBE I'M OVER-ROMANTICIZING IT A BIT.
BUT IT'S WHERE I SHOULD BE, KARÉ.
I KNEW IT THE SECOND I FIRST LEFT ORBIT.
MY WORLD WAS RESTRICTING ME.
MOST PEOPLE LOVE THINGS LIKE GRAVITY AND OXYGEN.
THEY JUST SLOW ME DOWN.
I DON'T LIKE BEING LIMITED, IOLO.
SPACE IS ALMOST FRICTIONLESS.
THERE IS NOTHING HOLDING ME BACK...

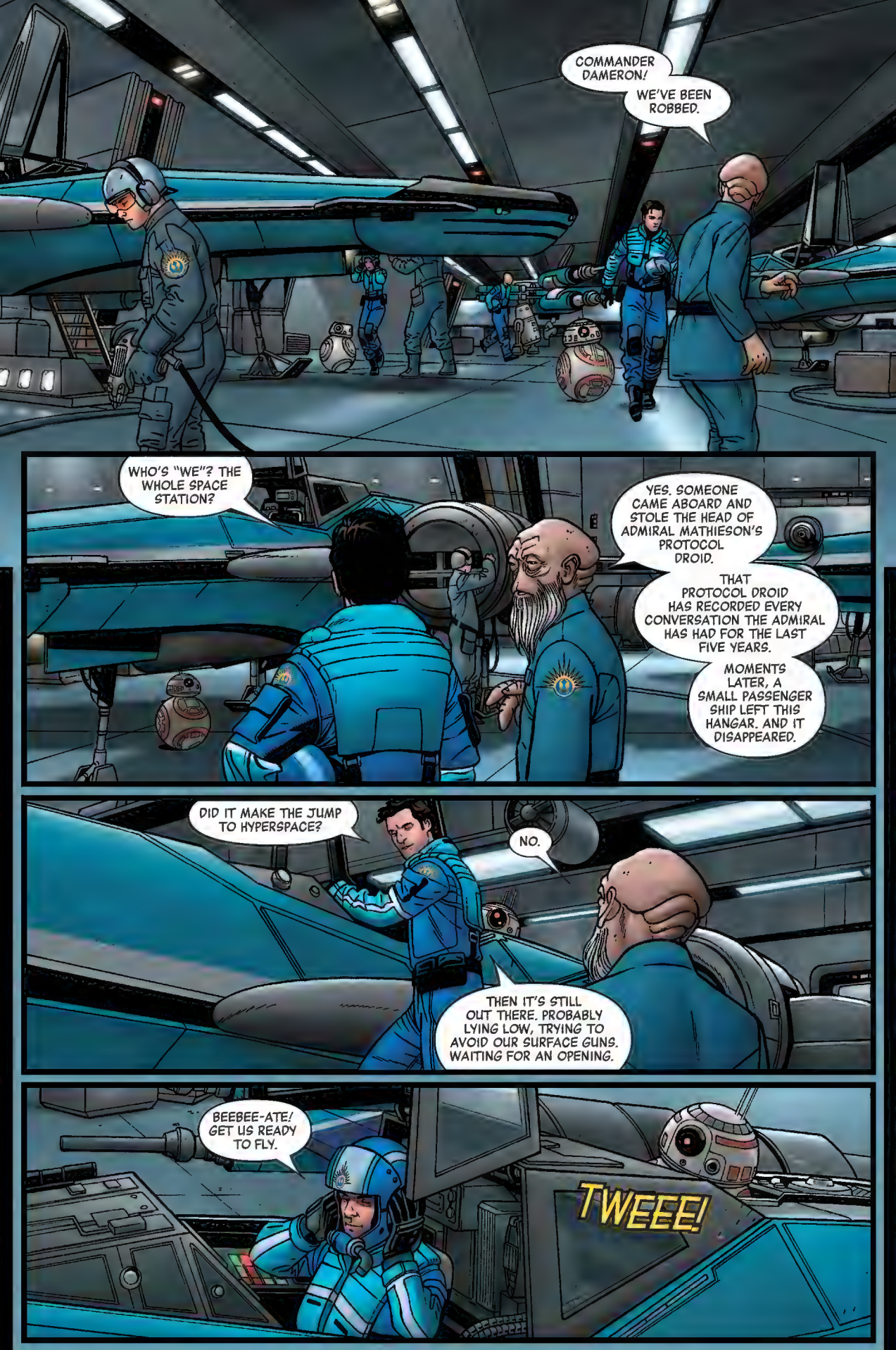
...OUT THERE.
The Brooksdion New Republic Space Station.


QUINNY. ANOTHER DRINK!
COMING UP.

BUT I DON'T JUST WANT TO FLY.
I WANT TO MOVE.
I WANT TO CHASE. I WANT TO RUN.
I WANT A CHALLENGE.
COMMANDER POE DAMERON IS COMPETITIVE. WHAT A SHOCK.


DEE DEE DEE
WHAT'S THAT ALARM FOR?

RAPIER SQUADRON. REPORT TO HANGAR BAY NINE IMMEDIATELY.
IT'S FOR US.


COMMANDER DAMERON!
WE'VE BEEN ROBBED.
WHO'S "WE"? THE WHOLE SPACE STATION?
YES. SOMEONE CAME ABOARD AND STOLE THE HEAD OF ADMIRAL MATHIESON'S PROTOCOL DROID.
THAT PROTOCOL DROID HAS RECORDED EVERY CONVERSATION THE ADMIRAL HAS HAD FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS.
MOMENTS LATER, A SMALL PASSENGER SHIP LEFT THIS HANGAR. AND IT DISAPPEARED.
DID IT MAKE THE JUMP TO HYPERSPACE?
NO.
THEN IT'S STILL OUT THERE. PROBABLY LYING LOW, TRYING TO AVOID OUR SURFACE GUNS. WAITING FOR AN OPENING.
BEEBEE-ATE! GET US READY TO FLY.
TWEEE!

RAPIER TWO STANDING BY.
RAPIER THREE STANDING BY.
RAPIER FOUR STANDING BY.
RAPIER SQUADRON...
"...PUNCH IT!"

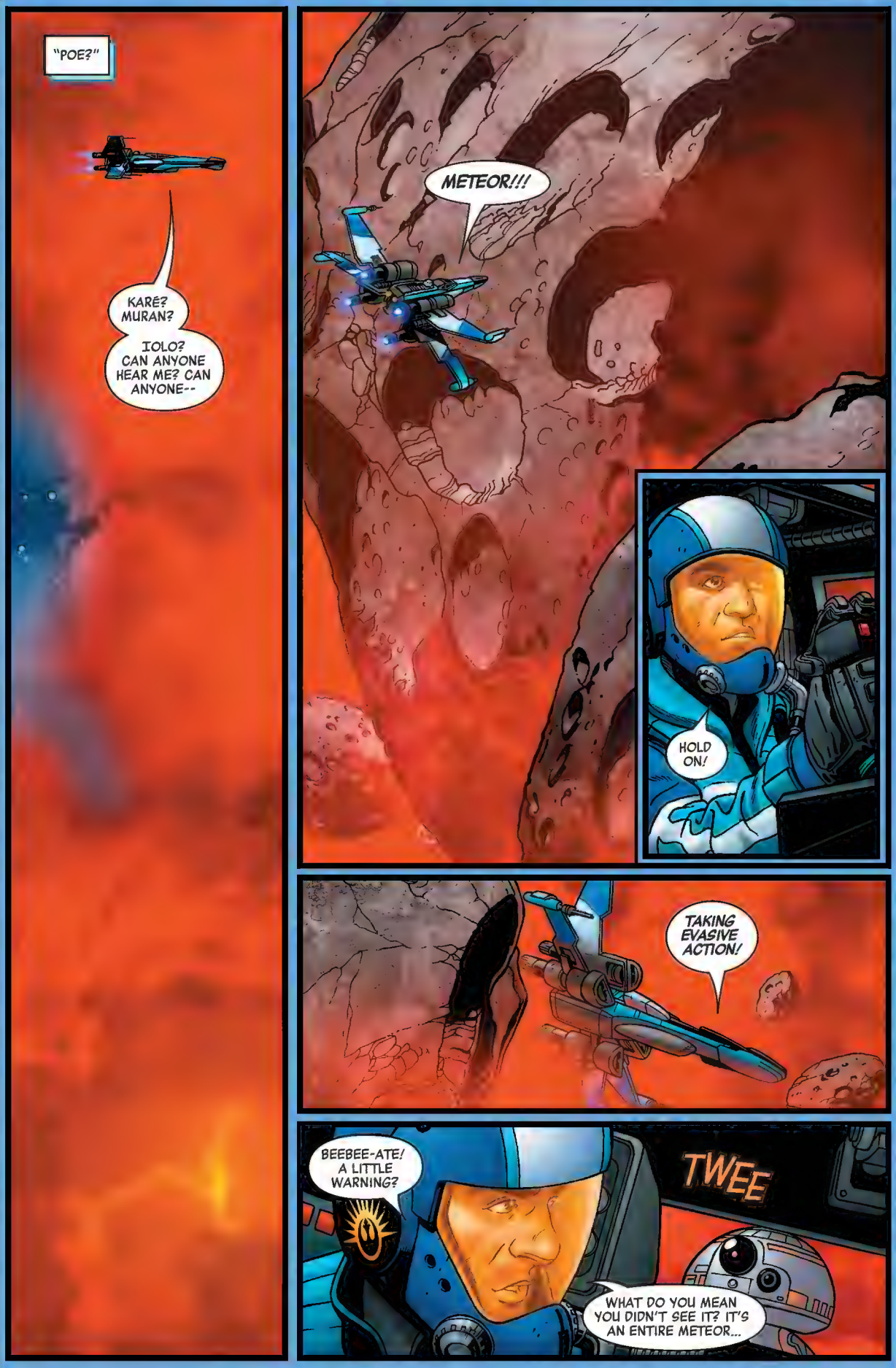
WE'RE LOOKING FOR A PASSENGER SHIP. PROBABLY MODIFIED FOR ACTION.
IT COULD BE ANYWHERE...
THERE!!!
THEY'RE HIDING BENEATH THE STATION!
THEY'VE SEEN US! THEY'RE MOVING!
THEIR HYPERDRIVE SYSTEMS ARE ONLINE! THEY'RE GOING TO GET AWAY.
NO.

CHOOM
THIS IS COMMANDER POE DAMERON OF THE NEW REPUBLIC DEFENSE FORCE. I HAVE TAKEN OUT YOUR HYPERDRIVE. YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
ROGUE SHIP. DO YOU COPY?
ROGUE SHIP. CAN YOU HEAR ME?
AH, YES. KIND OF.
WHAT... WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
THE VOLUME CONTROL IN HERE IS A BIT SCREWY, SO I CAN ACTUALLY HEAR YOU WAY TOO LOUDLY. COULD YOU SPEAK A LITTLE SOFTER?
YOU HAVE STOLEN FROM THE NEW REPUBLIC DEFENSE FORCE, AND I WILL SPEAK AT WHATEVER LEVEL I--
SERIOUSLY. IT'S NO GOOD. THE SPEAKERS IN HERE CAN'T HANDLE IT. BETWEEN HISSES AND CRACKLING, I'M GETTING ABOUT EVERY THIRD WORD YOU'RE SAYING. YOU SOUND ANGRY BUT INCOMPREHENSIBLE.

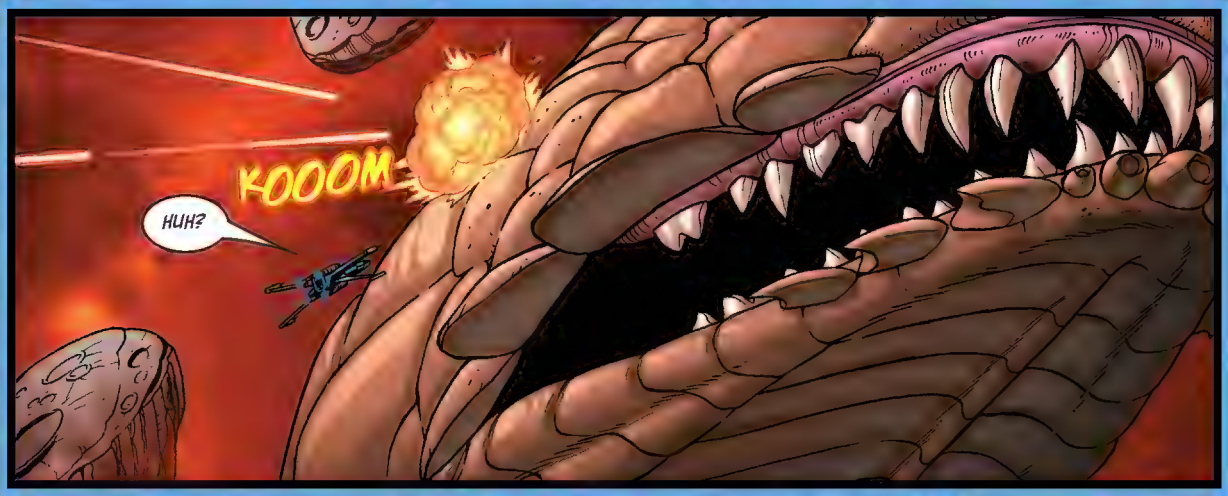
FINE. I WILL SPEAK QUIETLY.
YOU WILL BE ESCORTED INTO THE HANGAR WHERE--
THAT'S BETTER. THANKS.
SORRY. I THINK THERE'S A BIT OF A DELAY TOO.
YOU WILL BE ESCORTED INTO THE HANGAR WHERE YOU WILL SURRENDER WHAT YOU HAVE STOLEN. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
...
HELLO?
CAN YOU HEAR--?
YES. WE UNDERSTAND.
FWOOOOOM
HEY!
THEY'RE RUNNING!
THEN WE CHASE.

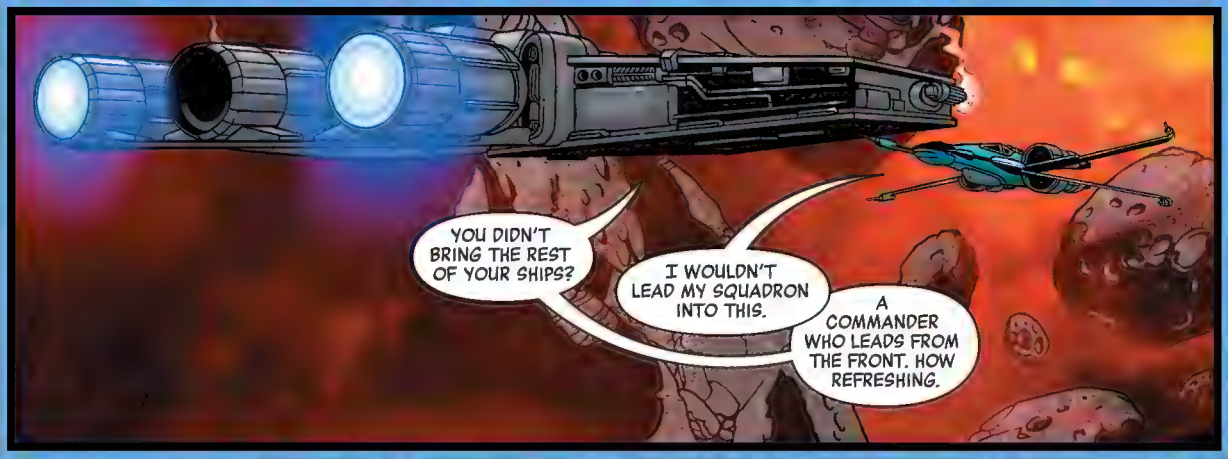
COMMANDER DAMERON.
SIR?
NEW ORDERS FROM THE ADMIRAL. YOU ARE TO DESTROY THAT SHIP.
WE CAN BRING THEM IN. WE CAN FIND OUT WHY THEY WANTED A DROID HEAD IN THE FIRST PLACE. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I'M PRETTY CURIOUS.
YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS, COMMANDER.
YES, SIR.
RAPIER SQUADRON...
"FIRE!"
CHOOOM
CHOOOM
WHOA!
WHERE DID THEY GO?
FORGET THAT. HOW DID THEY GO? WHAT WAS THA--?

CHNG
AGH!
POE! THEY'RE HEADING FOR THE LOST SOULS ASTEROID FIELD!
THESE PEOPLE HAVE A DEATH WISH.
PULL UP!
COMMANDER? YOU SAID PULL UP, BUT YOU DIDN'T PULL UP.
HOLD OUT HERE.
I'M GOING IN.
POE. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT'S IN THERE?
NO.
NO. NO ONE DOES. AND THERE'S A GOOD REASON. NO ONE'S EVER GONE IN AND COME BACK OUT AGAIN.
COMMANDER? ARE YOU THERE?
POE?

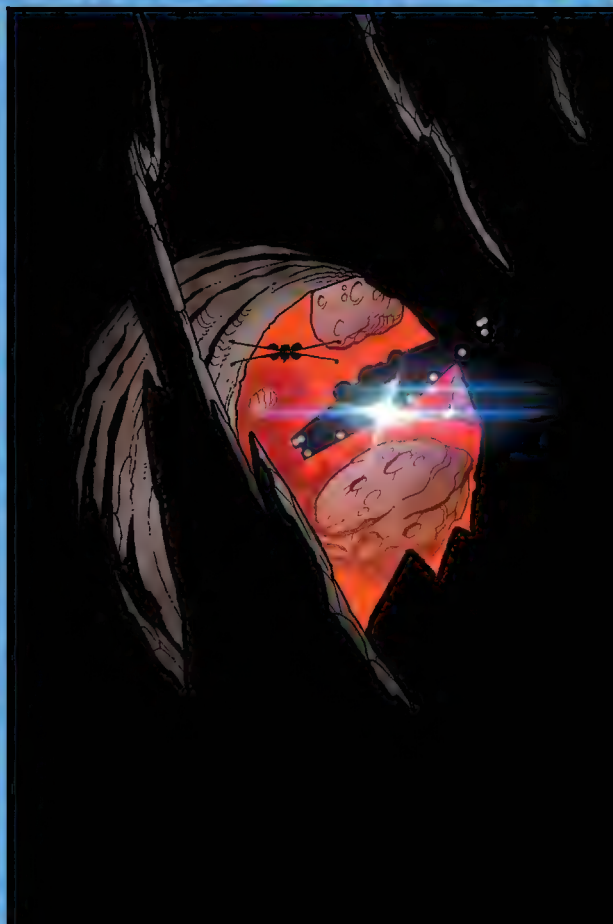

"POE?"
KARÉ? MURAN?
IOLO? CAN ANYONE HEAR ME? CAN ANYONE--
METEOR!!!
HOLD ON!
TAKING EVASIVE ACTION!
BEEBEE-ATE! A LITTLE WARNING?
TWEE
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU DIDN'T SEE IT? IT'S AN ENTIRE METEOR...

...HOW COULD YOUR SENSORS MISS SOMETHING THAT BIG?
ROAARGHHH!!!

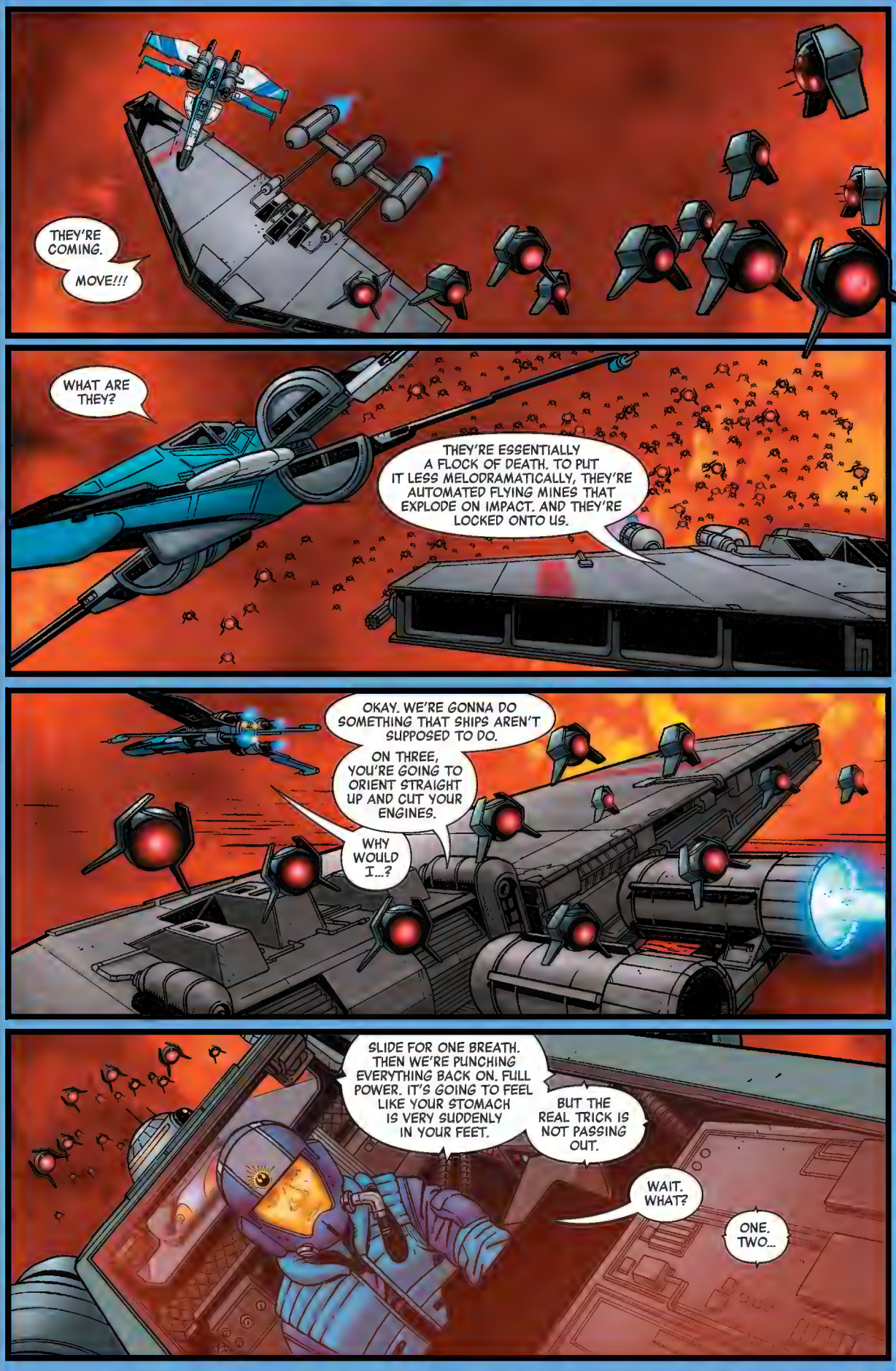

KOOOM
HUH?

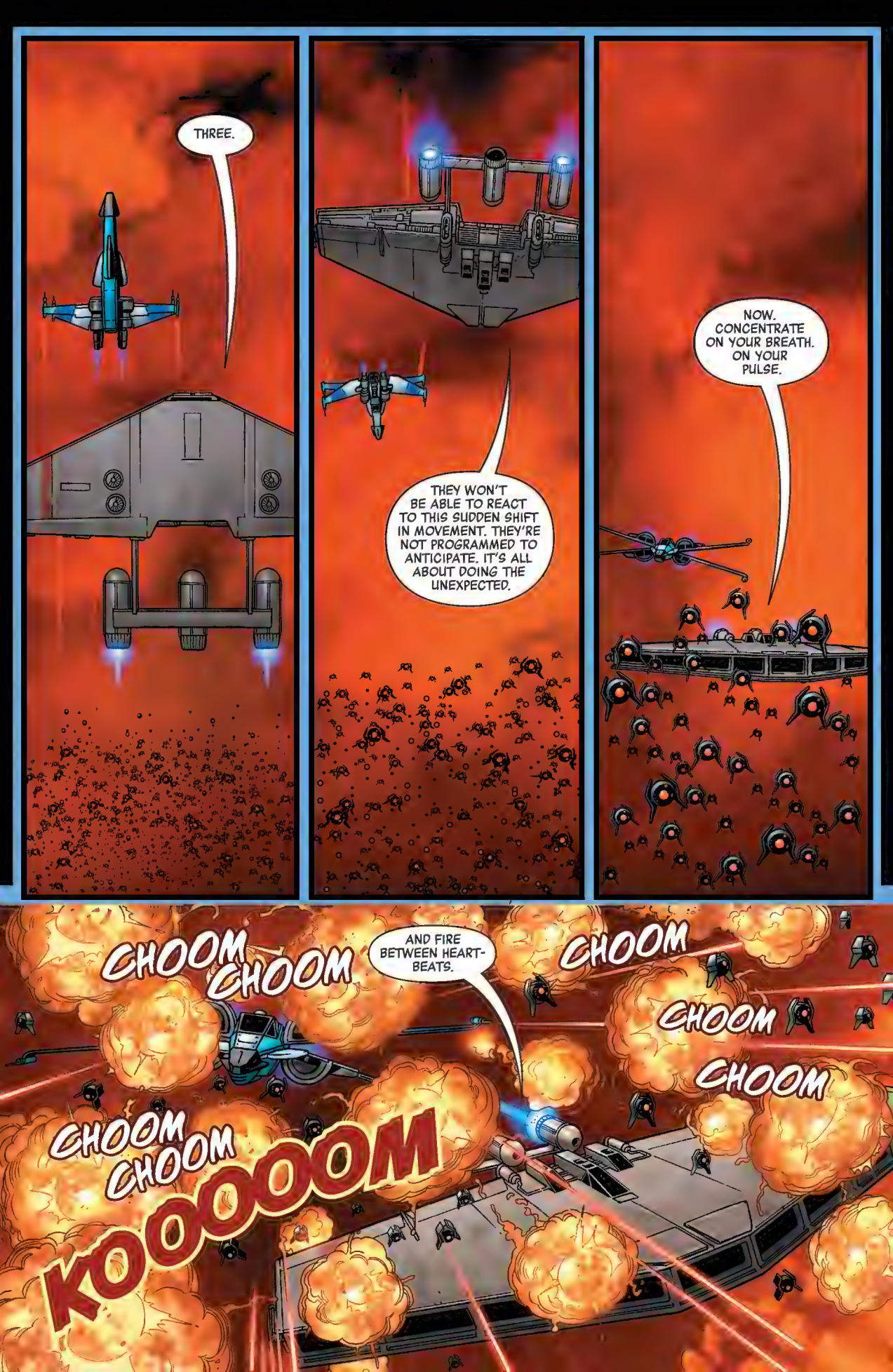

YOU DIDN'T BRING THE REST OF YOUR SHIPS?
I WOULDN'T LEAD MY SQUADRON INTO THIS.
A COMMANDER WHO LEADS FROM THE FRONT. HOW REFRESHING.

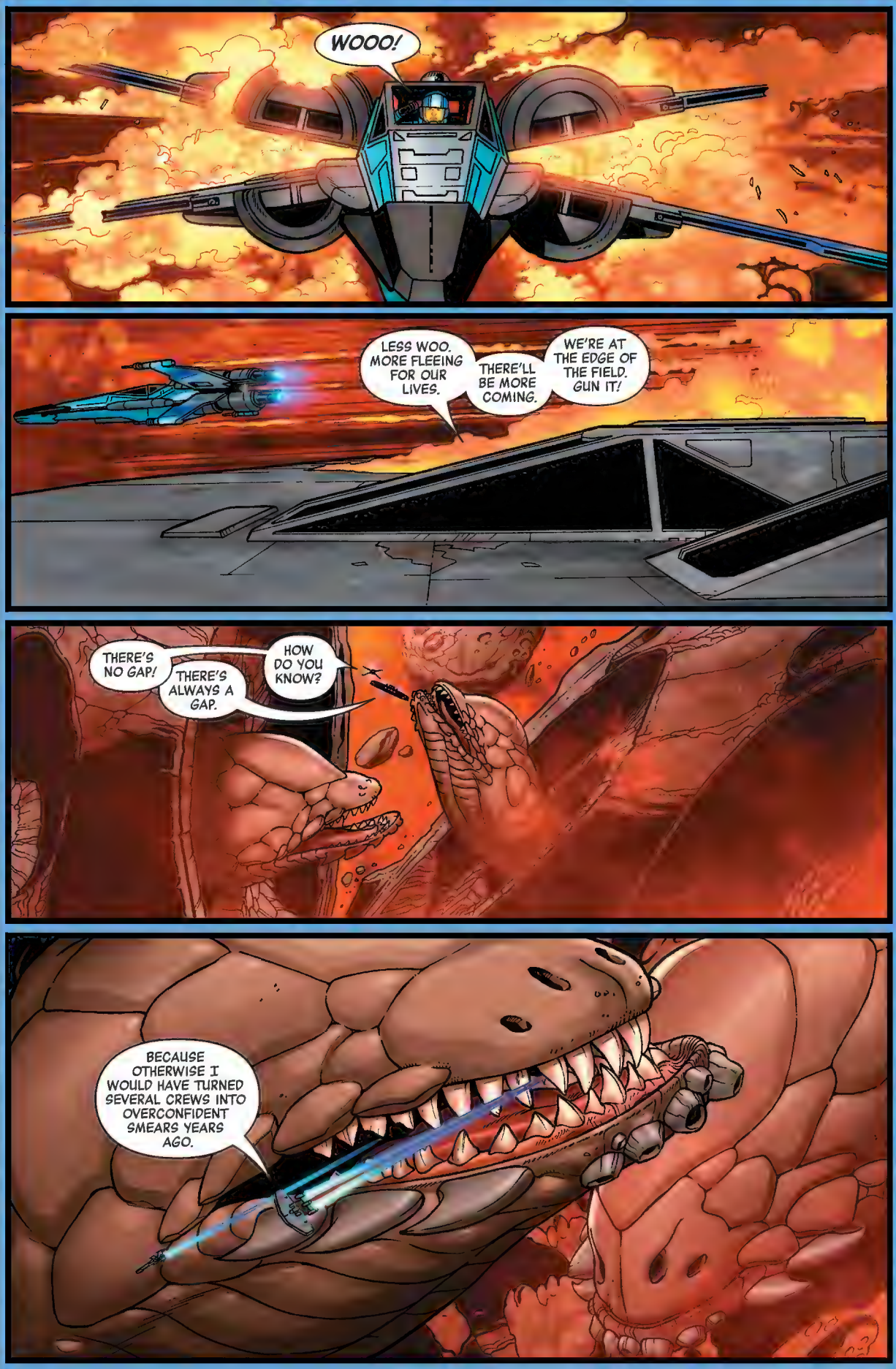
FOLLOW US!



I THINK WE'RE CLEAR.
HUH.
WHAT?
YOU FOLLOWED US.
YOU TOLD ME TO.
SURE. BUT I WASN'T EXPECTING YOU TO ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO DO IT. I'M COMMANDING ONE OF THE BEST PILOTS IN THE GALAXY IN HERE.
YOU SAVED ME. WHY?
YOU'RE NOT SAVED YET, FLYBOY.
WE STILL HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE. THIS PLACE IS CERTAIN DEATH FOR MOST SHIPS.
YEAH. WELL, I'M NOT MOST PILOTS.
YOU'VE MANAGED TO STAY ALIVE IN HERE FOR THREE MINUTES, AND THAT WAS WITH MY HELP. DON'T PAT YOURSELF ON THE BACK TOO HARD THERE. YOU MIGHT STRAIN SOMETHING.
YOU'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE?
I HAVE. DEFENSES WERE PUT IN PLACE DURING THE CLONE WARS TO PROTECT SOMETHING AT THE HEART OF THIS FIELD. I COMMANDED A CREW TO TAKE IT...
DEFENSES? WHAT ARE WE TALKING?
ON TOP OF THE SLUGS, THERE ARE ASTEROIDS DRIFTING INSIDE ALMOST ZERO VISIBILITY. SOMETHING ABOUT THE GASES IN HERE KILLS LONG-RANGE COMMUNICATION AND LIMITS SENSORS.
YOUR DROID IS USELESS.
WEEOO
DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY, BEEBEE-ATE.
AND THEN THERE'S...

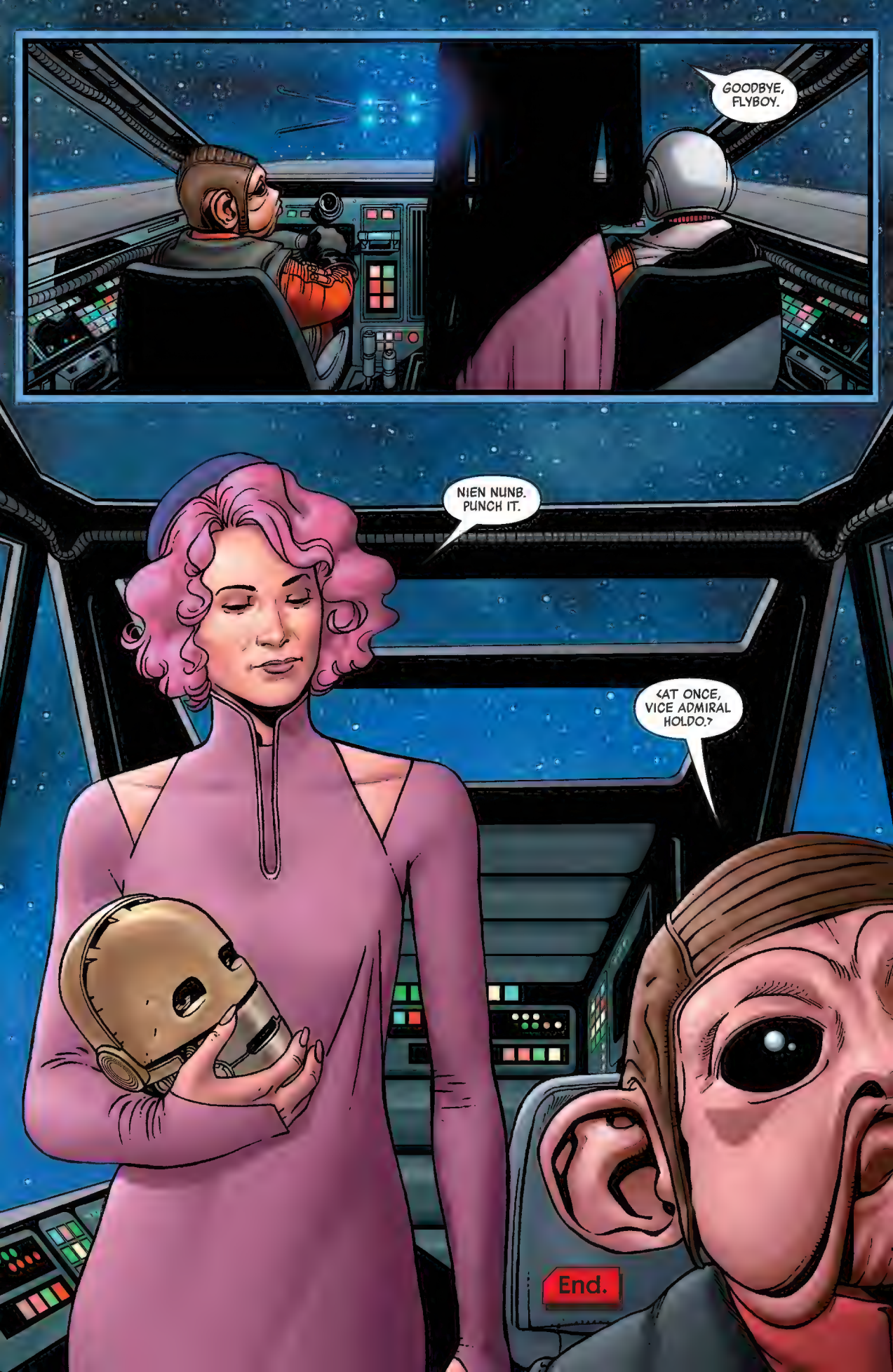

THEY'RE COMING.
MOVE!!!
WHAT ARE THEY?
THEY'RE ESSENTIALLY A FLOCK OF DEATH. TO PUT IT LESS MELODRAMATICALLY, THEY'RE AUTOMATED FLYING MINES THAT EXPLODE ON IMPACT. AND THEY'RE LOCKED ONTO US.
OKAY. WE'RE GONNA DO SOMETHING THAT SHIPS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO DO.
ON THREE, YOU'RE GOING TO ORIENT STRAIGHT UP AND CUT YOUR ENGINES.
WHY WOULD I...?
SLIDE FOR ONE BREATH. THEN WE'RE PUNCHING EVERYTHING BACK ON. FULL POWER. IT'S GOING TO FEEL LIKE YOUR STOMACH IS VERY SUDDENLY IN YOUR FEET.
BUT THE REAL TRICK IS NOT PASSING OUT.
WAIT. WHAT?
ONE. TWO...

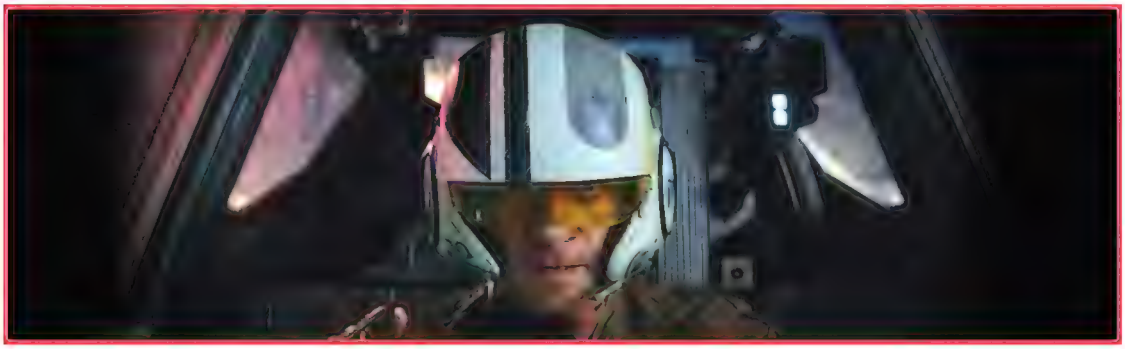

THREE.
THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO REACT TO THIS SUDDEN SHIFT IN MOVEMENT. THEY'RE NOT PROGRAMMED TO ANTICIPATE. IT'S ALL ABOUT DOING THE UNEXPECTED.
NOW. CONCENTRATE ON YOUR BREATH. ON YOUR PULSE.
AND FIRE BETWEEN HEART-BEATS.
CHOOM CHOOM
CHOOM CHOOM
KOOOOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM


WOOO!
LESS WOO. MORE FLEEING FOR OUR LIVES.
THERE'LL BE MORE COMING.
WE'RE AT THE EDGE OF THE FIELD. GUN IT!
THERE'S NO GAP!
THERE'S ALWAYS A GAP.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
BECAUSE OTHERWISE I WOULD HAVE TURNED SEVERAL CREWS INTO OVERCONFIDENT SMEARS YEARS AGO.

WOO!
WOOO!
THAT WAS JUST--
KOOOOM
WHOA! DID YOU JUST... SHOOT ME?!

SORRY, KID.
I CAN'T HAVE YOU CHASING US ANYMORE.
YOUR COMMUNICATION WILL BE WORKING OUTSIDE THE FIELD. CALL YOUR SQUADRON TO COME GET YOU.
WHAT WAS ALL THIS ABOUT? WHY DID YOU STEAL A DROID'S HEAD?
THERE'S BEEN SOMETHING GROWING OUT THERE. SOMETHING EVIL. AND A RESISTANCE IS RISING AGAINST IT.
IT'S HAD TO. THE NEW REPUBLIC COMMAND HASN'T BEEN ACTING. WE WERE AFTER FURTHER CONFIRMATION OF THIS INACTION.
THE NEW REPUBLIC DEFENSE FORCE. DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DEFENDING?
THE ONLY PEOPLE AFRAID OF WORDS GETTING OUT ARE PEOPLE WITH SOMETHING TO HIDE, FLYBOY.
THEY'LL FIND YOU. YOU WON'T GET FAR.
YES, WE WILL. MY CREW HAS FIXED THE HYPERDRIVE.
HEY. THANKS FOR THE FLYING LESSON IN THERE.
IT WASN'T A LESSON. IT WAS BASIC SURVIVAL.
FELT A BIT LIKE BOTH.
SURE.


GOODBYE, FLYBOY.
NIEN NUNB. PUNCH IT.
<AT ONCE, VICE ADMIRAL HOLDO.>
End.



AGE OF RESISTANCE -

Poe Dameron: Flyboy, Hero, Leader

By Bria LaVorgna

Poe Dameron is a hero, and he knows it.

The thing about Poe Dameron is that it's impossible not to notice him, whether he's standing in the landing field of a Resistance base or he's in the cockpit of a starfighter. Sometimes it's because he's being slapped across the face by General Organa and sometimes it's because he's taking out nine TIE fighters over the waters of Takodana without breaking a sweat. The son of A-wing pilot Shara Bey and rebel commando Kes Dameron, Poe seems like he was always destined to end up where he is: the leader of Black Squadron and the best pilot in Leia Organa's not-so-secret Resistance. Not bad for a character who was initially supposed to die early on in *The Force Awakens*.

In some ways, Poe has had the weight of the Resistance on his shoulders both inside and outside the *Star Wars* universe. Of this new generation of heroes, he's the one we've spent the most time with as we've watched his journey from being a mere pilot in the New Republic Defense Fleet to earning back his commander rank patch in the wake of the Battle of Crait. We've seen the bond he shares with his fellow pilots, how much he loves BB-8, the respect between him and General Organa and even how younger members of the Resistance, like Kazuda Xiono, so clearly look up to him. Perhaps he takes crazy risks and comes up with plans that rely just as much on luck as they do on skill because of the weight of those expectations. Or perhaps it just comes with the flyboy gig. Maybe it's both.

Much of Poe's natural charisma and charm can be placed squarely at the feet of Oscar Isaac. Director J.J. Abrams made it a point to get the actor on board for the character he described as "wonderful, daring, sardonic, brave, loyal," even back when Poe was supposed to be short-lived. "This is a hero that you need to believe is also a human being," Abrams said of Isaac's performance in an interview with *GQ*. "And he gave the role a nuance that I think made it one of the strongest in [*The Force Awakens*]." Poe's quip to Kylo Ren on Jakku ("Who talks first? You talk first? I talk first?") showed audiences exactly that, because it takes someone incredibly brave to mouth off to an evil Force-user in a mask.

Poe's inherent humanity is what makes him a great character. He's not someone who struggles with right and wrong or good and evil. Instead, his struggle is more with his tendency to need to be the person who pulls off some last-minute, thrilling heroics in service to the greater good. Because Leia's right: You can't solve everything by jumping in an X-wing to blow things up. When last we saw him in the final pages of the POE DAMERON comic, Poe was coming to terms with that. "I don't think it's about heroes. I used to," Poe tells Snap Wexley. "It's not about saving the galaxy. It's about saving *your* galaxy. You choose right over wrong. When it's dark, you try to bring some light. You end your journey knowing you made things brighter."

Poe Dameron will always be a hero, and right now, he's on the path to be the Resistance leader Leia always thought he could be too.

"MAROONED"

Ruthless General Armitage Hux is one of the First Order's most dangerous and trusted leaders, third only to Kylo Ren and the Supreme Leader himself. What made Hux the man he is today? Ambition? Or...something far more sinister...

Years Ago.
I'M SORRY.
YOU'RE PATHETIC.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO...
GIVEN YOU FOUND HIS MOTHER IN A KITCHEN, YOU'D THINK YOUR ILLEGITIMATE SON COULD AT LEAST SERVE A DRINK, COMMANDANT HUX.
UNFORTUNATELY, I'VE YET TO FIND ANYTHING ARMITAGE ISN'T UTTERLY USELESS AT, ADMIRAL BROOKS.
I'LL CLEAN IT.
I'LL WIPE IT UP AND...

BE A SHAME TO WASTE ALL OF THAT.
HE SHOULD LICK IT UP.
FATHER?
HA!
YOU WEAK... SNIVELING...
GET UP, ARMITAGE!
"GET UP!"

HUX! GET UP!
Now.
WHAT?
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
OUR HYPERDRIVE JUST SHUT DOWN. ENGINE'S FAILING. WE'RE DEAD IN THE AIR!
CONTACT FIRST ORDER COMMAND! TELL THEM WHERE WE ARE!
ALL OUR SYSTEMS ARE OUT, GENERAL!

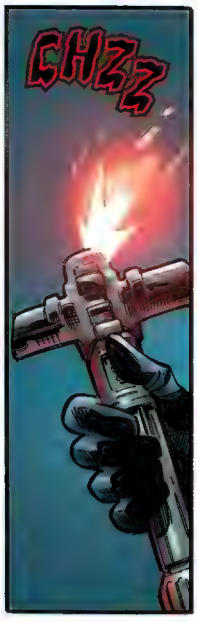
AND WE'RE STUCK IN A PLANET'S GRAVITY!
WE'RE GOING DOWN!
WE'RE GOING--
KOOOM

HOW DID WE...? DID YOU...DID YOU SAVE ME?
NOT INTENTIONALLY.
I SAVED MYSELF.
YOU WERE JUST NEARBY.
COMMUNICATIONS ARE OUT.
WHICH MEANS I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TALK TO YOU INSTEAD OF LITERALLY ANYONE ELSE.

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?
WHERE'S THE PILOT?
OVER THERE.
AND OVER THERE.
AND A LITTLE BIT OVER THERE.
THE WAY WE DROPPED OUT OF HYPERSPACE. THE WAY WE CAME DOWN. THE COMMUNICATIONS GOING OUT FIRST. LOSING CONTROL SO CLOSE TO A PLANET'S ORBIT...
I KNOW. SHUTTLES DON'T JUST FAIL LIKE THIS. THIS WAS CLEARLY SABOTAGE.
SOMEONE IN YOUR ARMY TRIED TO KILL YOU.
CLEARLY, YOU'VE MANAGED TO INSPIRE A LOT OF LOYALTY, HUX.
OH, PLEASE. I THOUGHT YOU COULD READ MINDS, REN. YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE PEOPLE HATE ME MORE THAN THEY HATE YOU?
WITH YOUR PETULANT TANTRUMS AND YOUR...
AND MY WHAT?
VADER WORE HIS MASK BECAUSE HE COULDN'T BREATHE WITHOUT IT.
BUT YOU... YOU JUST PLAY DRESS-UP TO HIDE THE FACES OF YOUR REBEL SCUM PARENTS--

VMMMMMM

IT WOULD TAKE THE FIRST ORDER AN AGE TO SEARCH EVERY POINT OF OUR HYPERSPACE PATH. NO ONE KNOWS WHERE WE ARE. NO ONE WOULD MISS YOU. NO ONE WOULD KNOW.
SNOKE WOULD KNOW.
HE'LL FIND IT IN YOUR HEAD SOMEWHERE. HE'LL PUNISH YOU.


CHZZ

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY SNOKE KEEPS YOU AROUND.
OF COURSE YOU DON'T.
WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO GET A MESSAGE OFF THIS PLANET. WE HAVE TO LET THE FIRST ORDER KNOW WHERE WE ARE.
HOW DO YOU PROPOSE WE DO THAT? WE'RE ALL ALONE HERE--

THMP

WHAT IS IT?
IT'S... MEAT?

BAIT.

ROARGHHH!!
HUX! STAY BEHIND ME!
VMMMM
HUX?
REALLY?

CRCK
THD
HUX! I DON'T KNOW HOW FAR YOUR COWARD LEGS HAVE TAKEN YOU, BUT YOU CAN COME--

ROAARGHHH!!
HNFF.
THD
TNK
TNK
TNK

HOLD!
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU HAVE THERE?
HMMM.
YOU IN THE TREES. COME ON OUT.

ONE WRONG MOVE AND I WILL SET THE NORWOODS ON YOU.
YOU'VE TAMED THEM?
I'VE BEEN HERE A LONG TIME.
YOUR UNIFORM. YOU'RE FROM... ALDERAAN?
I AM.
PALACE GUARD?
YES. BUT I WAS OFF-PLANET WHEN IT--
THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT TO GUARD.
THE EMPIRE TOOK IT ALL AWAY. AND THE WAR BEGAN. I RAN. ALL THE WAY HERE TO THE EDGES.
I CAN'T SAY I RECOGNIZE *YOUR* UNIFORM.
SIR?
BYLSMA.
BYLSMA. I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG YOU'VE BEEN HERE. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TELL YOU THIS...
THE WAR IS OVER. THE EMPIRE FELL.
HOW DO I KNOW YOU SPEAK THE TRUTH?
THERE'S SOME TRUTH UNCONSCIOUS UNDER YOUR CREATURE THERE.
THIS MAN...

...HE IS A SON OF ALDERAAN. HIS MOTHER IS LEIA ORGANA.
PRINCESS LEIA?
I...I CAN SEE IT.
HIS PARENTS WON THE WAR.
THE DEATH STAR?
DESTROYED. AND THE SECOND ONE.
THEY BUILT ANOTHER ONE?
THE GALACTIC EMPIRE WAS NEVER RENOWNED FOR ITS CREATIVITY.
THERE ARE STILL SOME REMNANTS FROM THAT WAR REMAINING. BUT NOT FOR MUCH LONGER.
WE'RE WORKING ON SOMETHING. SOMETHING THAT WILL FINALLY BRING PEACE AND ORDER TO THE GALAXY.
I KNEW HIS GRANDFATHER. AND HIS MOTHER. SHE WAS AN INCREDIBLE WOMAN.
IS HE... IS HE LIKE HER?
HE IS. HE'D DENY IT. BUT HE'S VERY MUCH LIKE HER.
TELL ME. WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE?

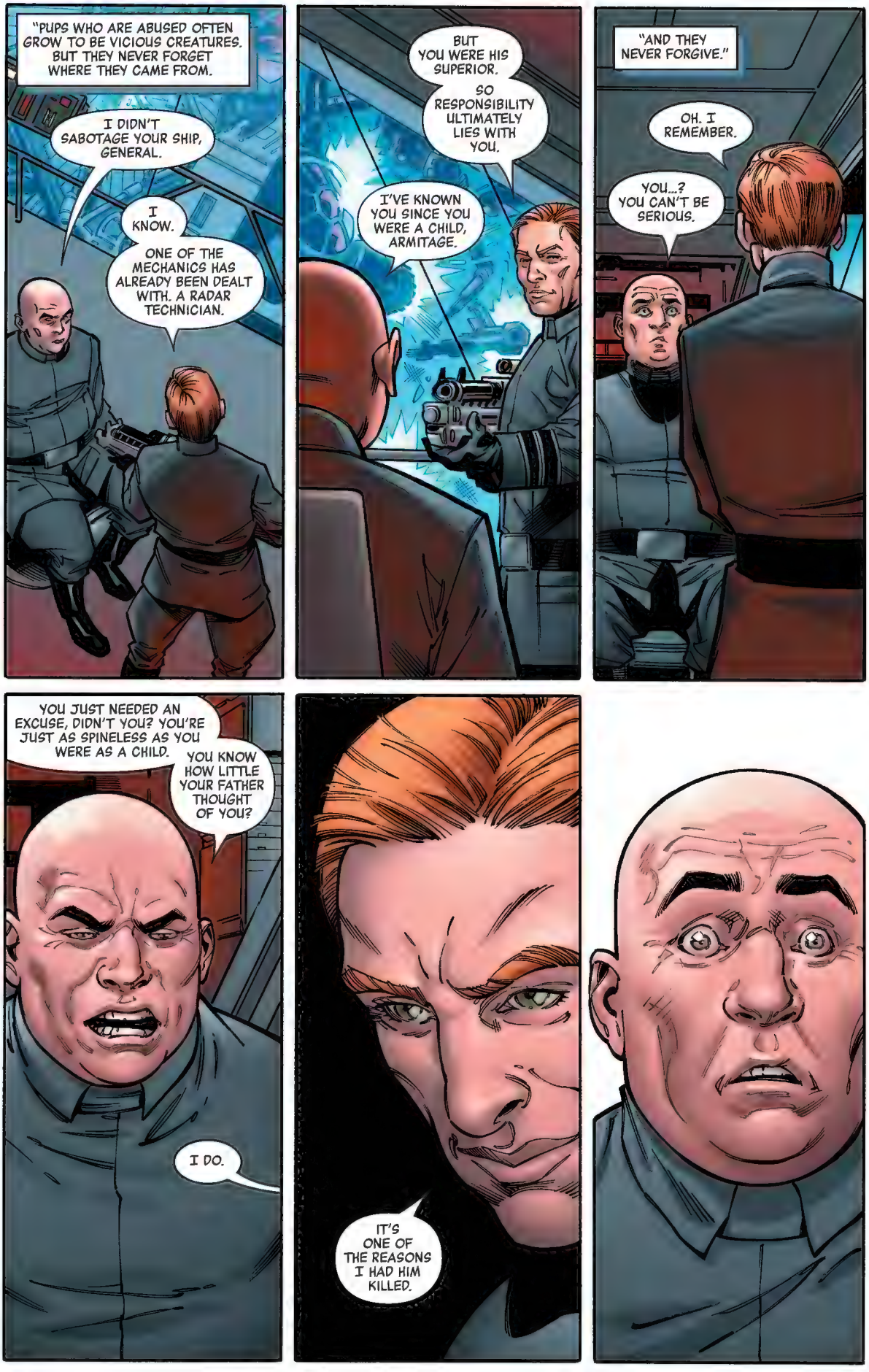
I COULDN'T REACH OUT. I DIDN'T KNOW WHO'D HEAR.
I COULDN'T TRANSMIT.
I COULDN'T RISK BEING FOUND. I'D ALREADY LOST ONE WORLD.
I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE THIS ONE AS WELL.
VADER. THE EMPEROR. THEY'RE REALLY GONE?
YES. THE EMPEROR COULD NEVER FATHOM THE STRENGTH THEY WERE UP AGAINST. THEY WERE TOO ARROGANT AND OVERCONFIDENT TO TRIUMPH.
BYLSMA. IT'S TIME TO CALL OUT.
YOU'RE SURE?
YES. LET ME USE YOUR SHIP'S COMMUNICATION ARRAY.
IT'S TIME TO GET OFF THIS PLANET AND ENJOY THE PEACETIME WE'VE WON.

HNNNG. WHAT?
BEN. YOU'RE AWAKE.
BEN?
IT'S OKAY. YOU'LL BE FINE. I CALLED OUT. OUR FRIENDS HAVE SENT A SHUTTLE.
I'M SURE YOUR MOTHER IS WORRIED SICK. BUT WE'LL BE HOME SOON.
THANKS TO BYLSMA HERE.
PSSHHH

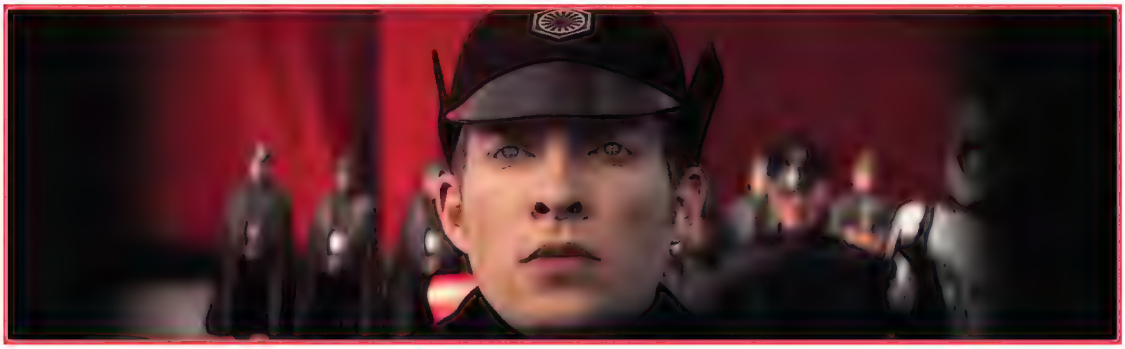
WHAT?
NO!
CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
DON'T KILL HIM.
WE'LL TAKE OUT HIS COMMUNICATIONS ARRAY AND USE THIS PLANET AS TARGET PRACTICE FOR STARKILLER BASE WHEN IT'S OPERATIONAL.
IT WILL AMUSE ME.
PREPARE A LIST, PHASMA. I WANT TO SEE EVERY PERSONNEL MEMBER WHO HAD ACCESS TO OUR SABOTAGED SHUTTLE.
GOODBYE, BYLSMA.

Starkiller Base.
Under Construction.
"SUPREME LEADER SNOKE..."
...I BELIEVE I HAVE IDENTIFIED THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR SABOTAGING OUR SHUTTLE.
I WILL PUNISH THE SABOTEUR.
NO. THIS WAS AIMED AT ME. THIS WAS AN ATTACK AGAINST A GENERAL OF THE FIRST ORDER. I WOULD LIKE PERMISSION TO DEAL WITH HIM MYSELF.
I WILL BE LESS... MESSY THAN REN.
OF COURSE YOU WILL. VERY WELL. DEAL WITH THIS TRAITOR, GENERAL HUX.
THANK YOU, SUPREME LEADER.
I DO NOT SEE HIS WORTH, SUPREME LEADER.
YOU DO NOT NEED TO.
HE IS NOT TO BE TRUSTED. YOU MUST KNOW HIS MIND. HE WANTS TO TAKE YOUR PLACE. HE WANTS TO KILL YOU.
HE WANTS TO KILL A LOT OF PEOPLE. I DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY.

"MEN LIKE HUX ARE USEFUL.
ADMIRAL BROOKS.
"MEN CONSUMED WITH AMBITION, FUELED BY SPITE.
GENERAL HUX. I WAS PLEASED TO HEAR OF YOUR RESCUE.
NO, YOU WEREN'T.
PHASMA. TAKE THE ADMIRAL'S WEAPON. AND LEAVE US, PLEASE.
WHAT IS THIS?
"MEN WHO CAN SET ASIDE THEIR PRIDE. WHO HAVE SHAME BURNING INSIDE THEM.
ACTUALLY, PHASMA.
I'LL TAKE YOUR BLASTER. IT'S GOOD AND INTIMIDATING.
TAKE A SEAT, BROOKS.


"PUPS WHO ARE ABUSED OFTEN GROW TO BE VICIOUS CREATURES. BUT THEY NEVER FORGET WHERE THEY CAME FROM.
I DIDN'T SABOTAGE YOUR SHIP, GENERAL.
I KNOW.
ONE OF THE MECHANICS HAS ALREADY BEEN DEALT WITH. A RADAR TECHNICIAN.
BUT YOU WERE HIS SUPERIOR.
SO RESPONSIBILITY ULTIMATELY LIES WITH YOU.
I'VE KNOWN YOU SINCE YOU WERE A CHILD, ARMITAGE.
"AND THEY NEVER FORGIVE."
OH. I REMEMBER.
YOU...? YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.
YOU JUST NEEDED AN EXCUSE, DIDN'T YOU? YOU'RE JUST AS SPINELESS AS YOU WERE AS A CHILD.
YOU KNOW HOW LITTLE YOUR FATHER THOUGHT OF YOU?
I DO.
IT'S ONE OF THE REASONS I HAD HIM KILLED.

CHOOM
YOU. MY FATHER. SNOKE. REN.
YOU ALL UNDERESTIMATE ME.
HNNNG. PLEASE.
YOU SEE ME AS SOMETHING YOU CAN CONTROL. SOMETHING WEAK.
I AM NOT WEAK. I AM PATIENT.
YOU ALL HAVE THE POWER TO DESTROY PEOPLE.
BUT I WILL OUTLIVE YOU ALL. I WILL HOLD MORE POWER THAN ANY OF YOU.
DESTROYING PEOPLE IS NOTHING. I WILL HAVE THE POWER TO DESTROY WORLDS.
BUT YOU...
...YOU WON'T GET TO SEE THAT.
CHOOOM
End.



AGE OF RESISTANCE -

General Hux: Grudges and Galactic Domination

By Bria LaVorgna

How does a bastard orphan, the son of a kitchen woman and a commandant, dropped in the middle of the Unknown Regions by a shattered Empire, grow up to be a general and a planet killer? Hint: It involved a little bit of murder.

General Armitage Hux is not a nice man. Instead, he is what his upbringing and the galaxy made him: ruthless and hell-bent on proving himself no matter how long it takes or what the cost. While nothing can excuse ordering the destruction of an entire star system and the murder of everyone on those planets, it's difficult to see how he could have possibly become anything else, except perhaps a mere cog in the First Order wheel.

Even from a young age, Armitage's role was made clear to him. The Empire may have needed children, and the First Order doubly so, but that didn't mean Commandant Brendol Hux treated his illegitimate son kindly. Instead, he referred to his child as being "a weak-willed boy…thin as a slip of paper and just as useless," and his abuses hardly stopped there. It's no wonder why Armitage wasn't broken up about coordinating his father's death with Captain Phasma. Perhaps the only person who engaged with a young Armitage with any sort of respect was Grand Admiral Rae Sloane. After the Battle of Jakku, she made a deal with him: He would protect her from the vicious orphans who would become the first class of new stormtroopers, and in return, she would protect him from his father. Precisely how far and how long that protection went is unknown, but she certainly delivered the message to Brendol rather pointedly. With her fists.

There is an ironic duality to how Hux is viewed within the First Order, especially once he achieved the rank of general. To the legions of stormtroopers, he is above them and better than them in every way, the heir to Brendol's legacy and in charge of the trooper education program. Among the officers and elite, though, respect is somewhat lacking. Snoke refers to him as a useful yet rabid cur, and older ranking officers who were a part of the Empire chafe at having to serve under someone so inexperienced. Captain Canady even referred to Hux as a "bloody idiot." With respect from one side and disdain from the other, it's little wonder why there are so few whom Hux actually trusts.

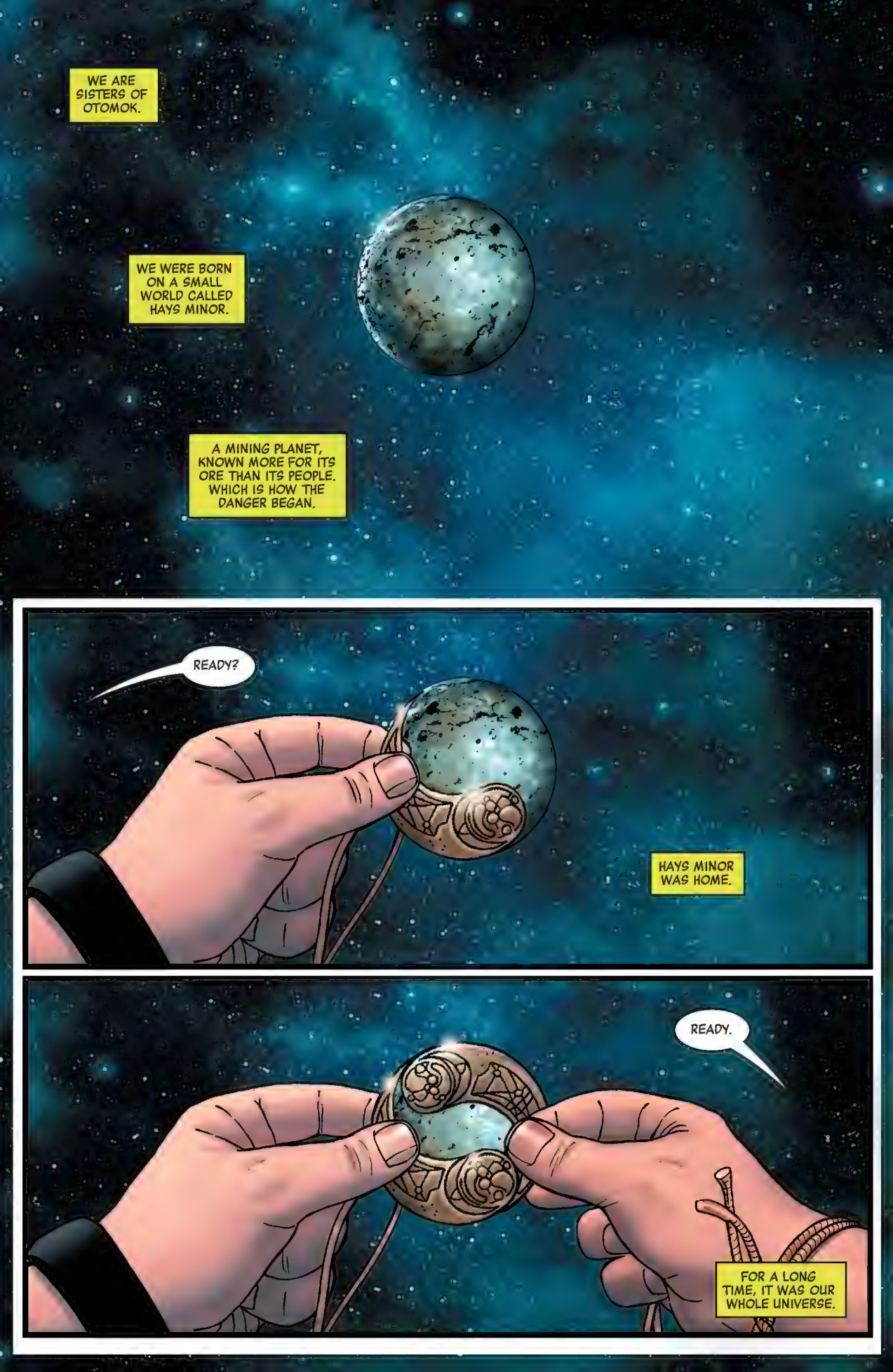
At least with Kylo Ren, the dynamic between the two men is straightforward: an intense, openly antagonistic rivalry without pretense. By the end of *The Last Jedi*, the competition is as dead as Snoke as Kylo takes the throne after a forceful reminder to Armitage regarding his strength and powers. They are no longer equals, and Hux must bow. But, if Kylo is smart, he'll keep an eye out for the knife Hux keeps up his sleeve.

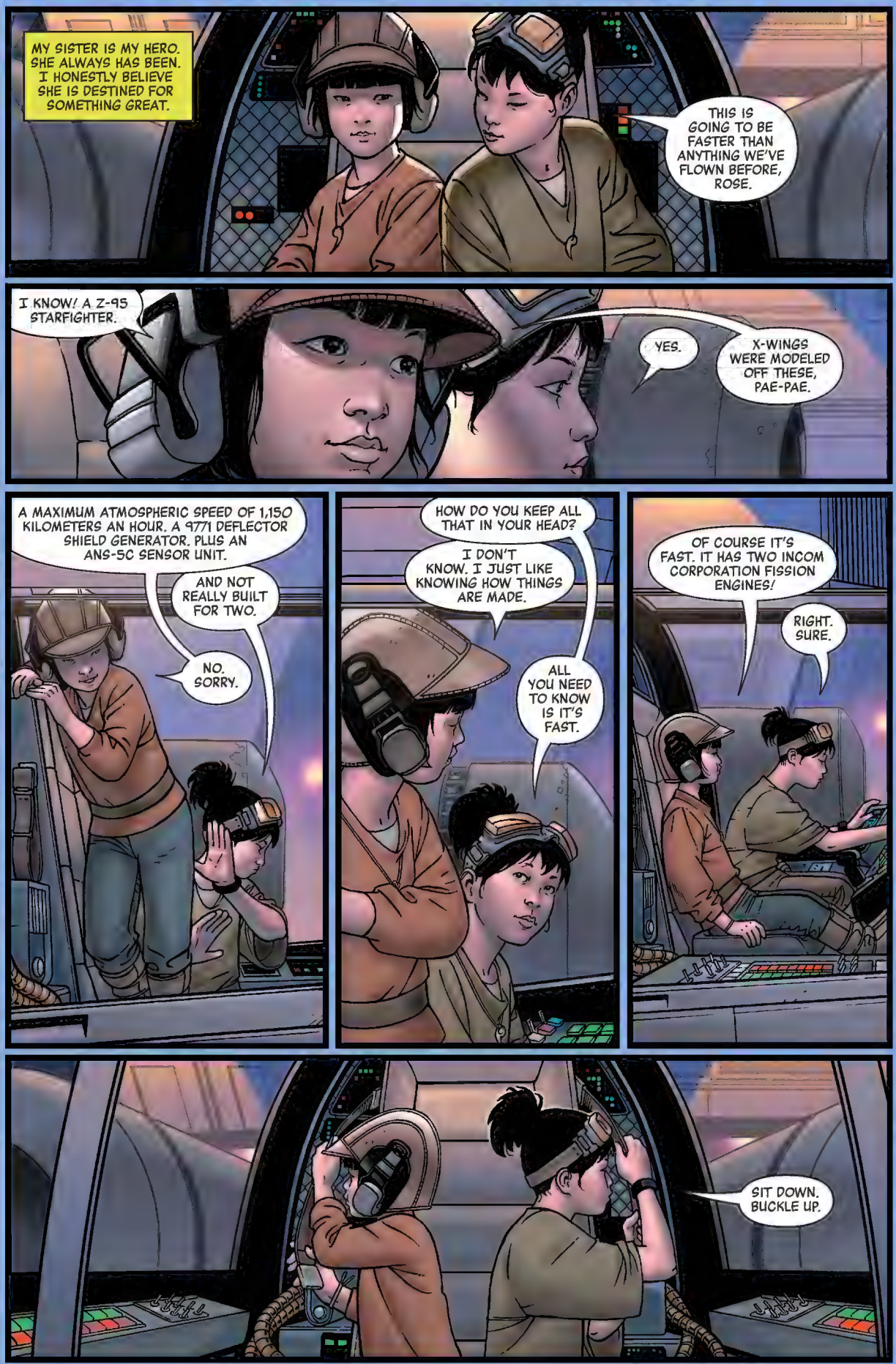
Domhnall Gleeson summed his character up succinctly in an interview with the *Huffington Post*: "He knows that he's always on the edge of losing everything. He's just desperate to maintain position and to improve, and as a result he's just a very nasty piece of work." After the destruction of Starkiller Base, Hux was repeatedly knocked down (literally) and kicked (metaphorically). It is a situation that makes him more dangerous than any of his enemies within the First Order could possibly imagine. When the day finally comes that he's pushed too far, it won't just be the Resistance in the line of fire.

"MY HERO"

Young sisters Rose and Paige Tico are inseparable, and growing up in an era of hope and peace—the time of the glorious New Republic—means that their futures are as bright and boundless as the stars of the galaxy. But a war is coming...

And new heroes will need to rise to defend the galaxy once more...

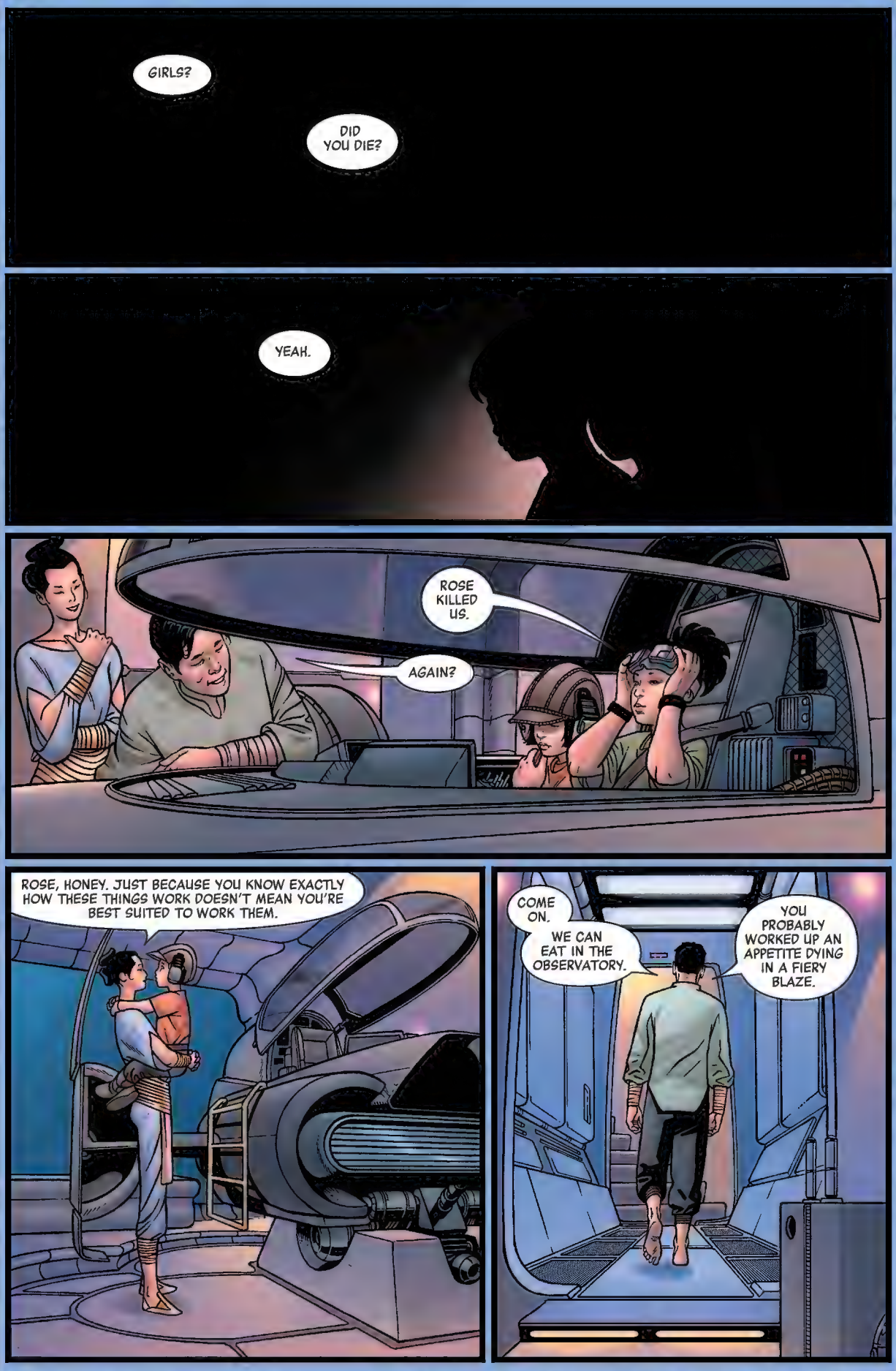

WE ARE SISTERS OF OTOMOK.
WE WERE BORN ON A SMALL WORLD CALLED HAYS MINOR.
A MINING PLANET, KNOWN MORE FOR ITS ORE THAN ITS PEOPLE. WHICH IS HOW THE DANGER BEGAN.
READY?
HAYS MINOR WAS HOME.
READY.
FOR A LONG TIME, IT WAS OUR WHOLE UNIVERSE.

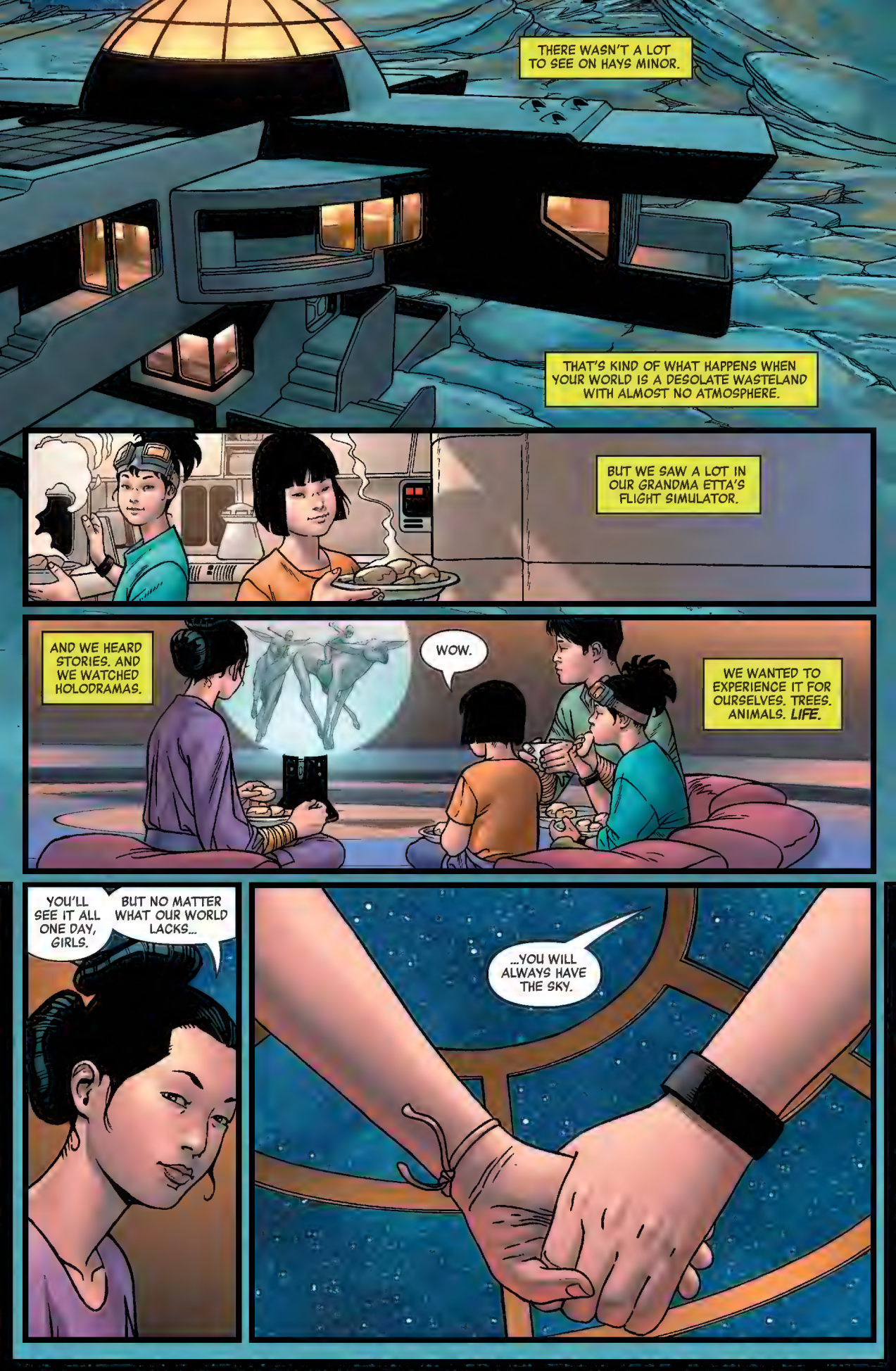

MY SISTER IS MY HERO. SHE ALWAYS HAS BEEN. I HONESTLY BELIEVE SHE IS DESTINED FOR SOMETHING GREAT.
THIS IS GOING TO BE FASTER THAN ANYTHING WE'VE FLOWN BEFORE, ROSE.
I KNOW! A Z-95 STARFIGHTER.
YES.
X-WINGS WERE MODELED OFF THESE, PAE-PAE.
A MAXIMUM ATMOSPHERIC SPEED OF 1,150 KILOMETERS AN HOUR. A 9771 DEFLECTOR SHIELD GENERATOR. PLUS AN ANS-5C SENSOR UNIT.
AND NOT REALLY BUILT FOR TWO.
NO. SORRY.
HOW DO YOU KEEP ALL THAT IN YOUR HEAD?
I DON'T KNOW. I JUST LIKE KNOWING HOW THINGS ARE MADE.
ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW IS IT'S FAST.
OF COURSE IT'S FAST. IT HAS TWO INCOM CORPORATION FISSION ENGINES!
RIGHT. SURE.
SIT DOWN. BUCKLE UP.

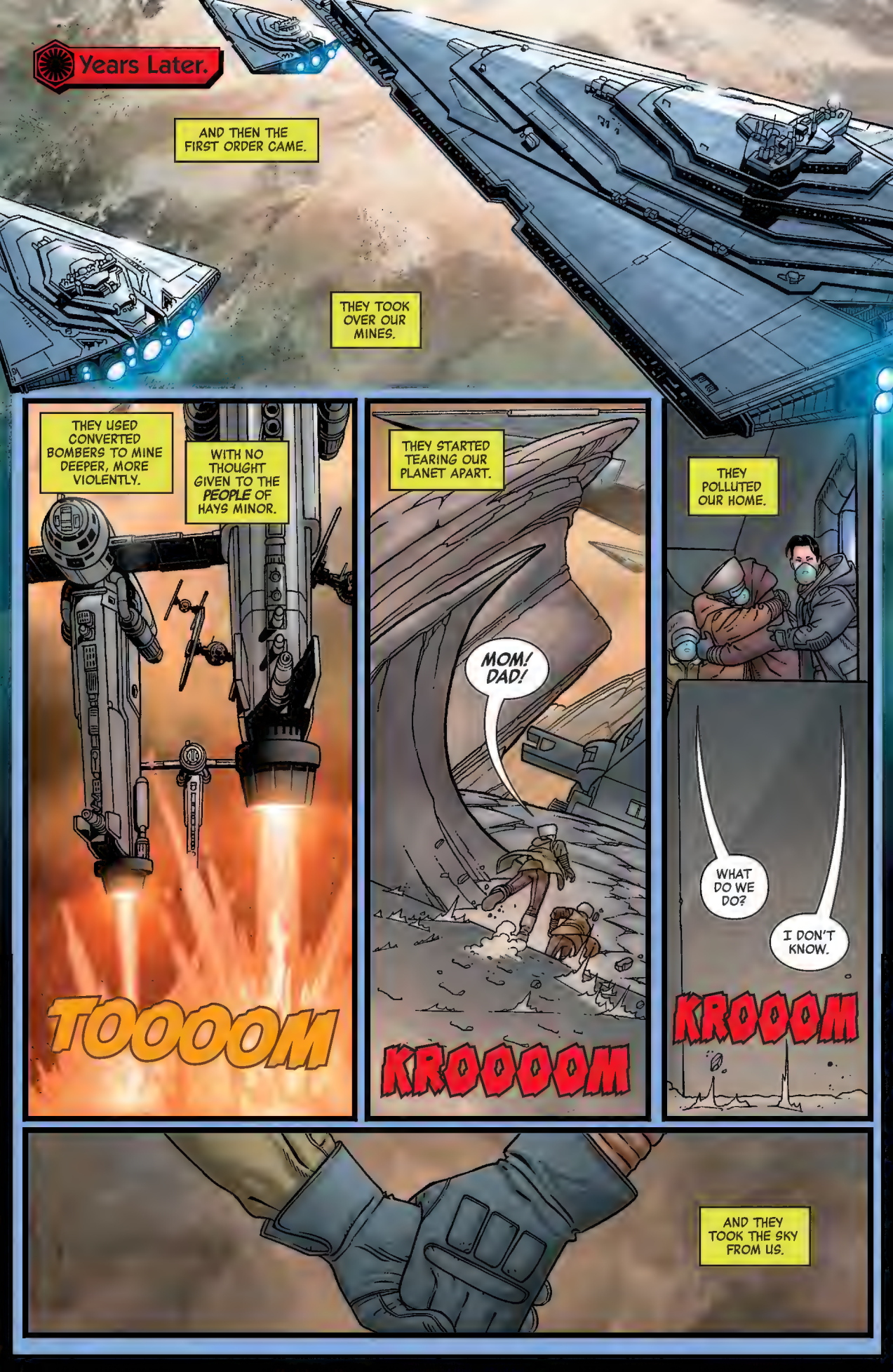
WE'RE MOVING.
WHOA. YOU SURE YOU GOT THIS?
I GOT THIS.
DEBRIS!
I SEE IT.
ACTIVATING TARGETING COMPUTER!
AND...
...FIRING!
CLK

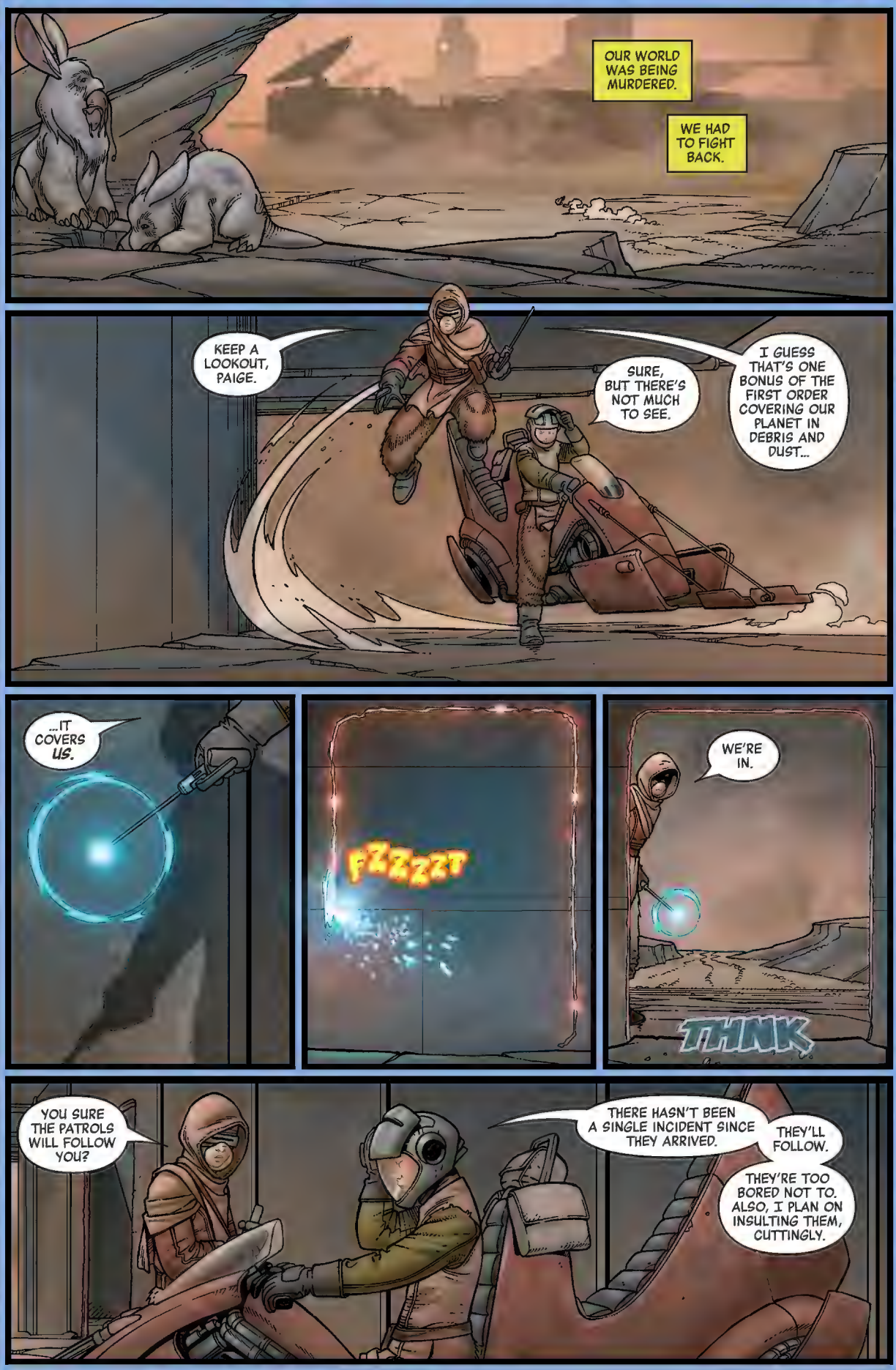
YES!
KABOOM
DIRECT HIT!!!
THAT WAS AMAZING!
YOU'RE AMAZING.
TAKING US DOWN TO THE PLANET.
ENTERING ATMOSPHERE.
CAN...UH... CAN I HAVE A TURN?
YOU'VE NEVER FLOWN ANYTHING THIS FAST. AND YOU'VE CRASHED THINGS MOVING A LOT SLOWER.
I HAVE TO START SOMEWHERE.
COME ON, PAIGE. I'LL TRY REALLY HARD NOT TO KILL US.
FINE.
YOU WANT TO FEEL THE SHIP. THE WHOLE SHIP.
FOR ONCE, DON'T THINK ABOUT HOW IT RUNS. JUST RUN WITH IT.

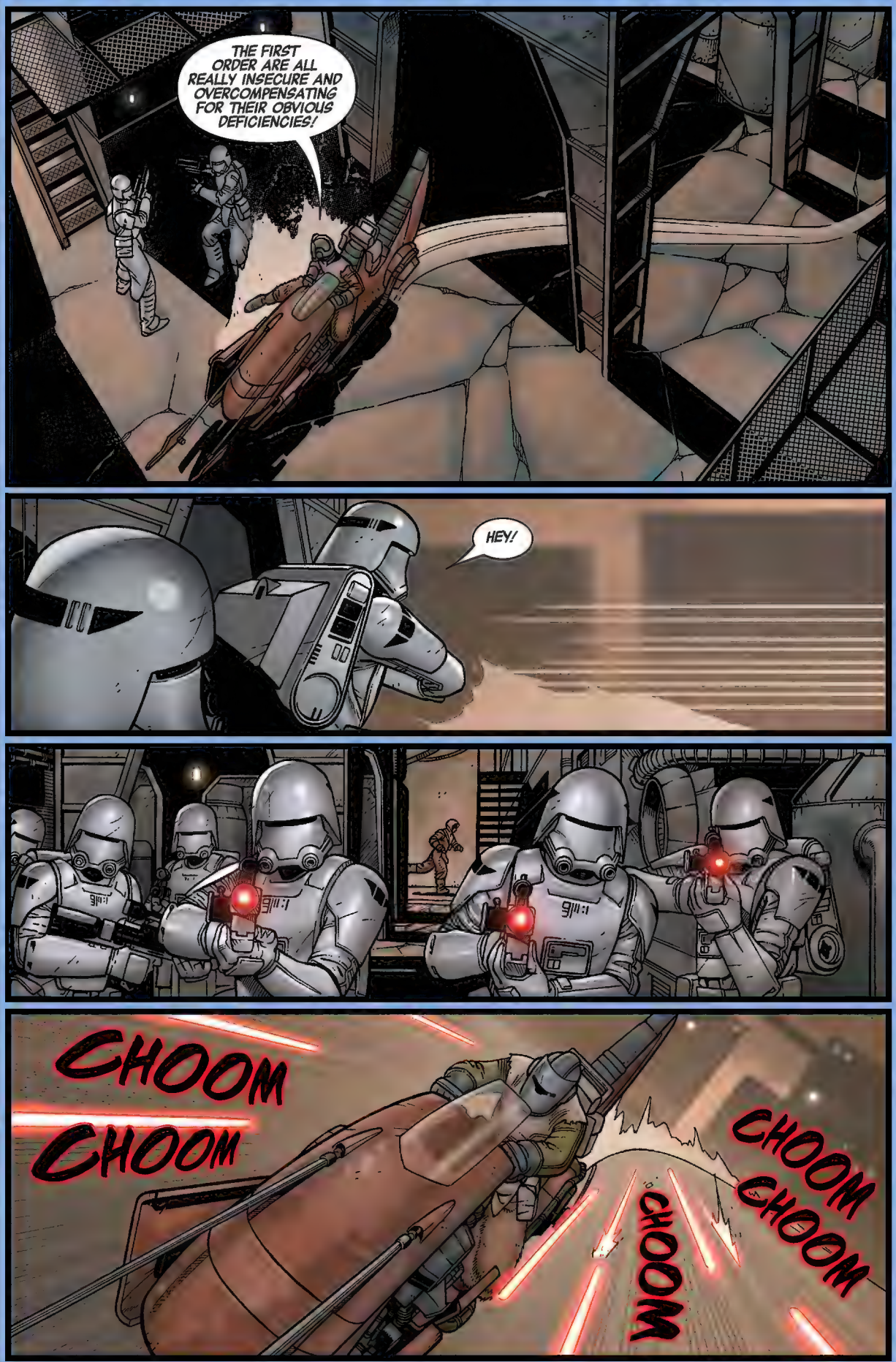
LOOK AT THAT, PAIGE.
PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT YOU'RE DOING.
BUT LOOK AT ALL THAT GREEN. THE LIFE.
TOO MUCH LOOKING!
PULL UP. PULL UP!!!
PULL UP.
ROSE!!!
AGHHHH!!!


GIRLS?
DID YOU DIE?
YEAH.
ROSE KILLED US.
AGAIN?
ROSE, HONEY. JUST BECAUSE YOU KNOW EXACTLY HOW THESE THINGS WORK DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE BEST SUITED TO WORK THEM.
COME ON.
WE CAN EAT IN THE OBSERVATORY.
YOU PROBABLY WORKED UP AN APPETITE DYING IN A FIERY BLAZE.


THERE WASN'T A LOT TO SEE ON HAYS MINOR.
THAT'S KIND OF WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOUR WORLD IS A DESOLATE WASTELAND WITH ALMOST NO ATMOSPHERE.
BUT WE SAW A LOT IN OUR GRANDMA ETTA'S FLIGHT SIMULATOR.
AND WE HEARD STORIES. AND WE WATCHED HOLODRAMAS.
WOW.
WE WANTED TO EXPERIENCE IT FOR OURSELVES. TREES. ANIMALS. LIFE.
YOU'LL SEE IT ALL ONE DAY, GIRLS.
BUT NO MATTER WHAT OUR WORLD LACKS...
...YOU WILL ALWAYS HAVE THE SKY.


Years Later.
AND THEN THE FIRST ORDER CAME.
THEY TOOK OVER OUR MINES.
THEY USED CONVERTED BOMBERS TO MINE DEEPER, MORE VIOLENTLY.
WITH NO THOUGHT GIVEN TO THE PEOPLE OF HAYS MINOR.
TOOOOM
THEY STARTED TEARING OUR PLANET APART.
MOM! DAD!
KROOOOM
THEY POLLUTED OUR HOME.
WHAT DO WE DO?
I DON'T KNOW.
KROOOM
AND THEY TOOK THE SKY FROM US.


OUR WORLD WAS BEING MURDERED.
WE HAD TO FIGHT BACK.
KEEP A LOOKOUT, PAIGE.
SURE, BUT THERE'S NOT MUCH TO SEE.
I GUESS THAT'S ONE BONUS OF THE FIRST ORDER COVERING OUR PLANET IN DEBRIS AND DUST...
...IT COVERS US.
FZZZZT
WE'RE IN.
THINK
YOU SURE THE PATROLS WILL FOLLOW YOU?
THERE HASN'T BEEN A SINGLE INCIDENT SINCE THEY ARRIVED.
THEY'LL FOLLOW.
THEY'RE TOO BORED NOT TO. ALSO, I PLAN ON INSULTING THEM, CUTTINGLY.


THE FIRST ORDER ARE ALL REALLY INSECURE AND OVERCOMPENSATING FOR THEIR OBVIOUS DEFICIENCIES!
HEY!
CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM

CAPTAIN WOLSTENHOLME.
WHAT IS IT?
TROUBLE OUTSIDE.
KNOWING HOW THINGS WORK...
...THAT ALSO MEANS KNOWING HOW THINGS CAN STOP WORKING.
FZZZZ
THE NAVIGATION AND WEAPONS SYSTEMS OF AN ENTIRE FLEET OF MINING BOMBERS WERE SABOTAGED.
CHZZZT

IN ALL, WE TOOK OUT TWELVE BOMBERS.
WE STRUCK A BLOW FOR HAYS MINOR.
KOOM
KOOM
KOOOM
YOU MAY NOT BE GREAT AT FLYING SHIPS, ROSE, BUT YOU REALLY ARE AN ABSOLUTE EXPERT AT CRASHING THEM.
WE STOPPED THE FIRST ORDER...

...FOR THREE DAYS.
THREE DAYS IS ALL IT TOOK TO BRING IN NEW SHIPS AND CONTINUE THE BOMBARDMENT.
TOOM
TOOM
TOOM
TOOM

WE HAVE TO FIGHT BACK!
WE DO.
BUT WE CAN'T FIGHT THE WHOLE FIRST ORDER. NOT ALONE.
WHO'S GOING TO HELP?

THE RESISTANCE. FIND THEM. JOIN THEM.
WE'VE PAID FOR PASSAGE OFF OF HAYS MINOR FOR BOTH OF YOU.
BOTH OF *US?*
WHAT ABOUT YOU?

WE CAN'T LEAVE. BUT YOU...
IF TWO CHILDREN OF OTOMOK ARE WITH THE RESISTANCE, MAYBE THAT CAN TURN THE TIDE.

WE'LL BE BACK.
WE'LL BE WAITING.

WE LEFT.

WE WERE WELCOMED INTO THE RESISTANCE.

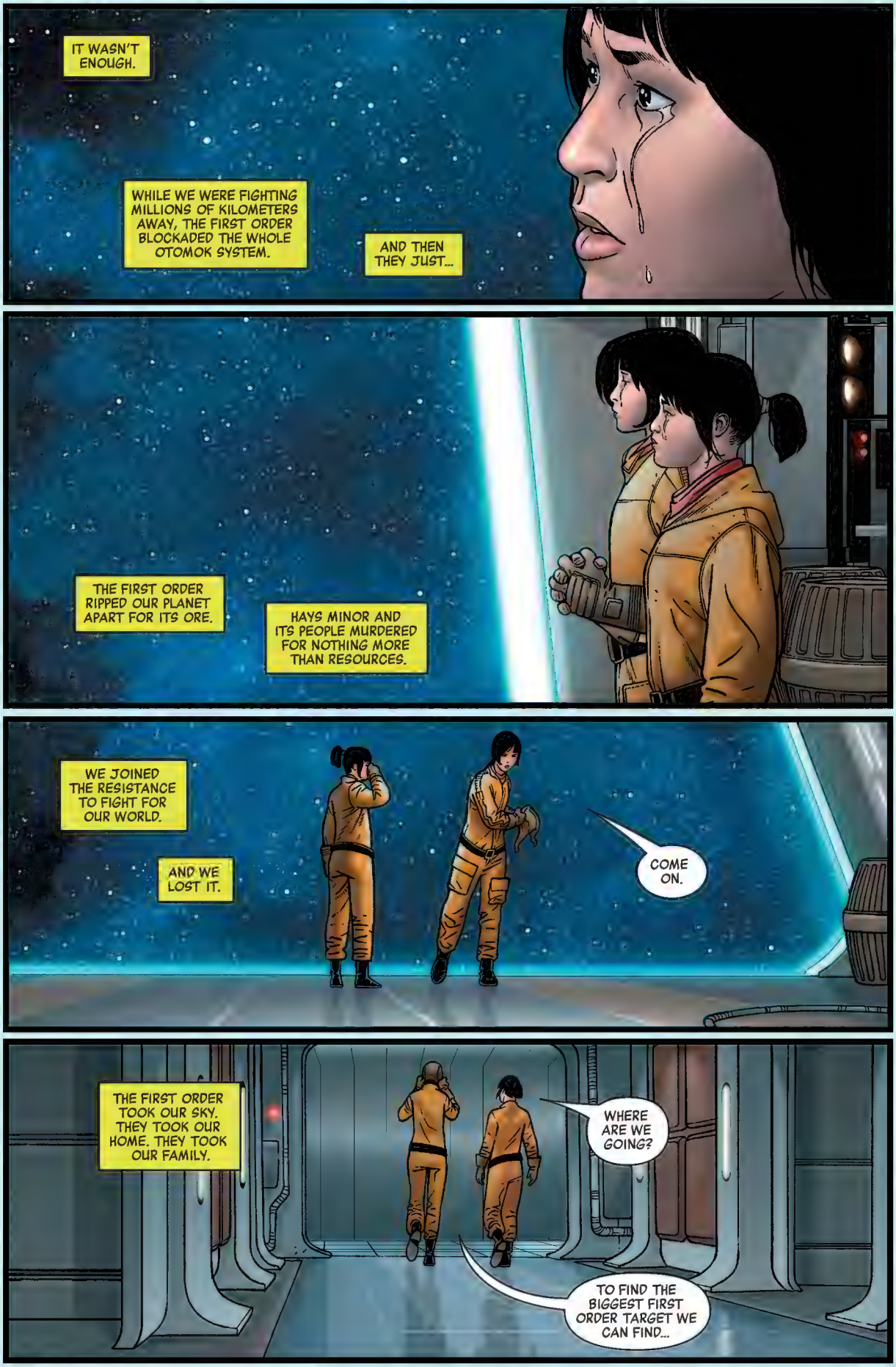
WE JOINED THE CREW OF *COBALT HAMMER*.

WE FOUGHT ALONGSIDE GREAT HEROES.

AND WE STRUCK BLOW...

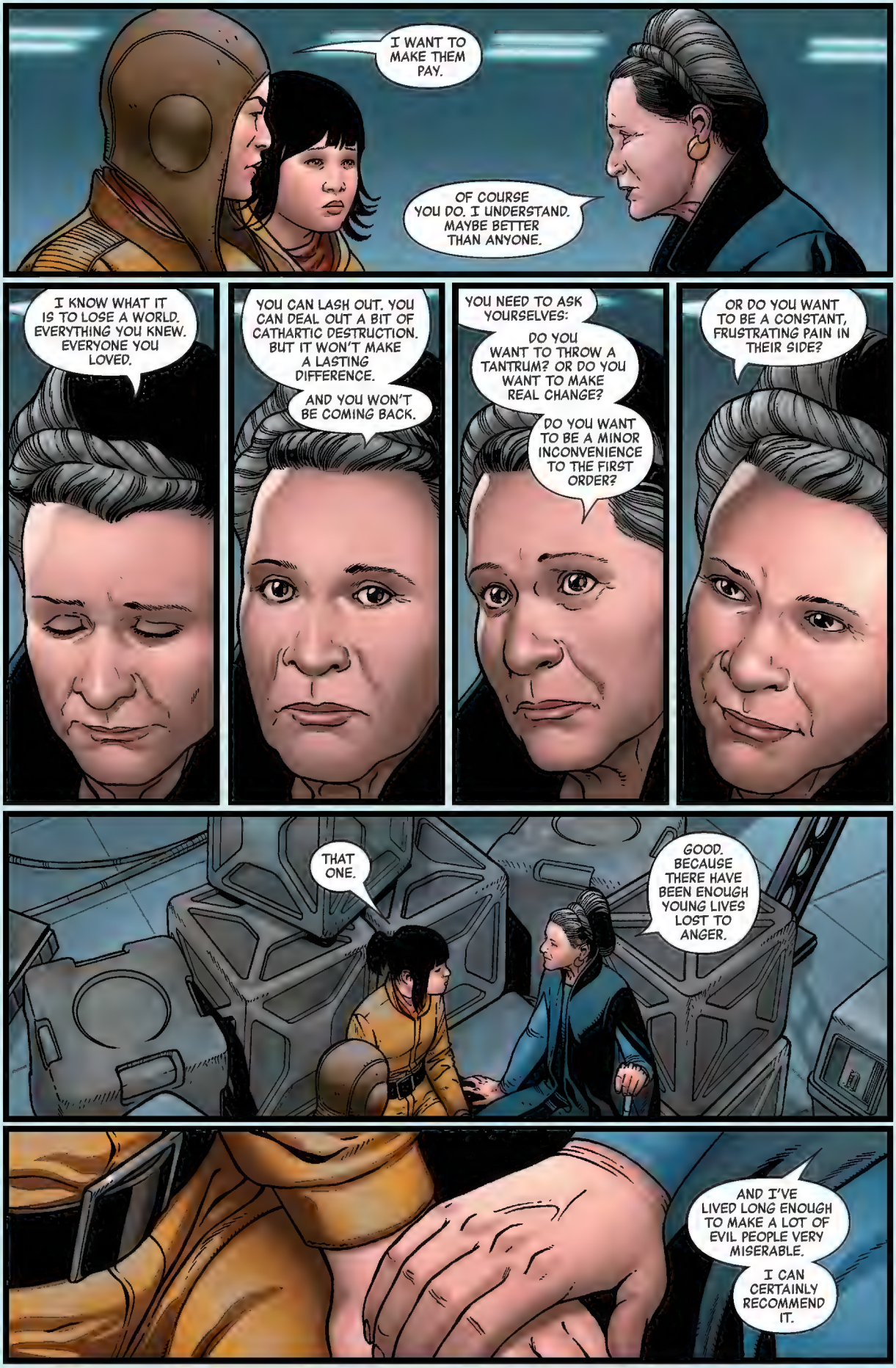
...AFTER BLOW...

...AGAINST THE GREED AND TYRANNY OF THE FIRST ORDER.


IT WASN'T ENOUGH.
WHILE WE WERE FIGHTING MILLIONS OF KILOMETERS AWAY, THE FIRST ORDER BLOCKADED THE WHOLE OTOMOK SYSTEM.
AND THEN THEY JUST...
THE FIRST ORDER RIPPED OUR PLANET APART FOR ITS ORE.
HAYS MINOR AND ITS PEOPLE MURDERED FOR NOTHING MORE THAN RESOURCES.
WE JOINED THE RESISTANCE TO FIGHT FOR OUR WORLD.
AND WE LOST IT.
COME ON.
THE FIRST ORDER TOOK OUR SKY. THEY TOOK OUR HOME. THEY TOOK OUR FAMILY.
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
TO FIND THE BIGGEST FIRST ORDER TARGET WE CAN FIND...

...AND BLOW IT TO PIECES.
OKAY. LET'S DO THAT.
ROSE. PREP FOR TAKE-OFF.
UH... PAIGE?
WE CAN'T TAKE OFF.
WHY NOT?

"THERE'S SOMEONE IN OUR WAY."
GENERAL ORGANA?
SIT WITH ME.
I'M SORRY.
I TRULY AM. I'M SORRY WE WEREN'T THERE.
I'M SORRY WE COULDN'T STOP WHAT HAPPENED.
YOU CAN GET IN A SHIP RIGHT NOW. SET A COURSE. FIND THE FIRST ORDER AND DO YOUR WORST.
IT'S YOUR CALL. I WON'T STOP YOU.


I WANT TO MAKE THEM PAY.
OF COURSE YOU DO. I UNDERSTAND. MAYBE BETTER THAN ANYONE.
I KNOW WHAT IT IS TO LOSE A WORLD. EVERYTHING YOU KNEW. EVERYONE YOU LOVED.
YOU CAN LASH OUT. YOU CAN DEAL OUT A BIT OF CATHARTIC DESTRUCTION. BUT IT WON'T MAKE A LASTING DIFFERENCE.
AND YOU WON'T BE COMING BACK.
YOU NEED TO ASK YOURSELVES:
DO YOU WANT TO THROW A TANTRUM? OR DO YOU WANT TO MAKE REAL CHANGE?
DO YOU WANT TO BE A MINOR INCONVENIENCE TO THE FIRST ORDER?
OR DO YOU WANT TO BE A CONSTANT, FRUSTRATING PAIN IN THEIR SIDE?
THAT ONE.
GOOD. BECAUSE THERE HAVE BEEN ENOUGH YOUNG LIVES LOST TO ANGER.
AND I'VE LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO MAKE A LOT OF EVIL PEOPLE VERY MISERABLE.
I CAN CERTAINLY RECOMMEND IT.

WE ARE THE LAST SISTERS OF OTOMOK.
WE WERE BORN ON A SMALL WORLD CALLED HAYS MINOR.
I...I DON'T WANT THIS TO HAPPEN TO ANYONE ELSE.
GOOD. THAT'S THE PERFECT PLACE TO START.
START WHAT?
START REBELLING. START RESISTING.
FOR A LONG TIME, IT WAS OUR WHOLE UNIVERSE.
GO. TAKE TIME TO GRIEVE, AND--
NO.
NO?
MY SISTER IS MY HERO. SHE ALWAYS HAS BEEN.
OUR WORLD IS GONE. OTHERS NEED SAVING.
I'D LIKE TO START NOW.
I HONESTLY BELIEVE ROSE IS DESTINED FOR SOMETHING GREAT.
End.

AGE OF RESISTANCE

Rose Tico: A Resistance Hero Worth Fighting For

By Bria LaVorgna

"Are you okay?" a random stranger in the crowd gathered around the *Star Wars* Show stage asked me at *Star Wars* Celebration Orlando in 2017. "Do you, like, know her or something?"

The "her" in question was Kelly Marie Tran. I didn't, of course. At that point, most *Star Wars* fans could barely even say that we knew who Tran was until director Rian Johnson introduced her to us during *The Last Jedi* panel as the actress playing Rose Tico, a maintenance worker in the Resistance. At some point during Tran's moment in the spotlight on stage, I ended up sitting down on my heels with my face in my hands. I don't know if it was when they first showed a picture of her in costume or when Johnson drew a comparison between her character and Luke Skywalker, saying, "The notion that any of us can step up and turn into a hero, that's really where the character of Rose comes from." But at some point, I ended up so obviously emotionally overwhelmed at seeing an Asian woman prominently featured in a *Star Wars* film that a stranger felt the need to check on me. With the advent of the sequel trilogy came more diverse casting within the galaxy far, far away than ever before. Seeing faces like Oscar Isaac's and John Boyega's were welcome indeed as had been the majority of the main cast of *Rogue One*, but with Kelly Marie Tran, I finally could see a woman in the Resistance whose face looked like my mother's. And I immediately loved Rose Tico with my entire heart.

The character of Rose Tico wasn't always quite like the one we ultimately saw on screen. She started life on the page as a "grumpy Eeyore type." According to his director's commentary on *The Last Jedi*, Johnson rewrote the role to reflect Tran's natural enthusiasm, making her "a much more open-hearted character that was a reflection of Kelly." In a world with lightsabers and starships, Rose is decidedly human. From her love of animals to her disappointment in one of her personal heroes after he doesn't quite live up to her expectations. When we first meet her in *The Last Jedi*, she's mourning the death of her older sister, Paige, who'd just given her life to take out a First Order dreadnaught. The sisters were presumed orphans from Hays Minor who joined the Resistance to try to help stop the First Order from ruining any other worlds like theirs. Despite being mechanically gifted, Rose lived in her sister's shadow, often struggling to convince herself to step out even though Paige always knew she could be a hero. She just needed a push and the chance. Rose, along with her compatriots in the Resistance, is a reminder that we could all be that hero.

My answer to that concerned stranger at Celebration wasn't much more than some squeaked words about representation and being really happy to see Kelly Marie Tran on the stage. I have a far better one now though. In the years since, we've gotten to know both Rose and her actress better. We've watched the first part of Rose Tico's story and saw how emotional Tran was every step of the way, fully cognizant of what her character meant to so many Asian American women who hadn't previously seen themselves in the franchise they loved. "That's how we're going to win," Rose says to Finn, "not fighting what we hate, saving what we love." To me, Rose Tico is hope, and she is a hero, and she's just what *Star Wars* needed.

"FAIL. OR KILL IT."

From the ashes of the evil Galactic Empire rises the First Order, a villainous sect of fanatics united by their Supreme Leader, Snoke. With a promising new apprentice and the limitless power of the dark side of the Force to command, Snoke is poised to crush the New Republic and take over the galaxy....

ARE YOU AFRAID?

NO.
The Rarlech System.
I AM NOT AFRAID.
YES, YOU ARE.
I CAN FEEL IT.
AND YOU SHOULD BE SCARED, KYLO REN.

YOU ARE NOT IN CONTROL. YOU ARE CONFUSED. UNSURE OF YOUR CONVICTIONS. FILLED WITH DOUBT.
YOU FEEL POWERLESS.
GOOD.
POWERLESS MEN OFTEN TURN TO ANGER.
THEY LASH OUT BLINDLY WITH THEIR RAGE.
BUT POWERFUL BEINGS CAN HARNESS THEIR RAGE.
USE IT TO STRIKE.
FOR WE EITHER STRIKE...
...OR WE FALL.

AGHHHH!!
"USE YOUR FEAR.
"LET IT CRYSTALLIZE INTO ANGER.
"TURN THAT ANGER INTO *POWER.*"

YOU DIDN'T DIE, THEN?
WOULD YOU HAVE CAUGHT ME IF I HADN'T CAUGHT MYSELF, SUPREME LEADER SNOKE?
SKYWALKER WOULD HAVE...
...AND IN SO DOING, HE WOULD HAVE HELD YOU BACK.
I NEED MORE FROM YOU. I NEED YOU TO FIND YOUR TRUE POWER. YOUR TRUE POTENTIAL.
IF YOU ARE TO RULE BY MY SIDE, REN, THEN I CAN'T HAVE YOU DEFEATED BY HEIGHTS.
COME.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?
TO CONTINUE YOUR TRAINING ELSEWHERE.
TO CHALLENGE YOU.
TO FACE WHAT IS HOLDING YOU BACK.
AND YOU WILL EITHER FAIL...
"...OR YOU WILL KILL IT."

SUPREME LEADER. WE'RE HERE.
LEAVE IT.
I--
I SAID LEAVE IT!
KRAK
YOU CANNOT HIDE BEHIND A MASK HERE.
YOU CANNOT PRETEND TO BE VADER IN THIS PLACE.
TNK
WHERE ARE WE?

Dagobah.
I CAN STILL FEEL HIM. FROM HIS TIME HERE.
SKYWALKER.
YES.
ONE OF THE MOST FORMIDABLE JEDI BEGAN HIS TRAINING HERE.
WHY DO YOU SPEAK OF HIM THAT WAY?
WHAT WAY?
WITH RESPECT?
HE HAS EARNED MY RESPECT...AND MY FEAR.
HE IS WEAK.
HE IS NOT WEAK. HE IS MISGUIDED.
IF I HAD YOUR UNCLE BY MY SIDE INSTEAD OF YOU, THE GALAXY WOULD HAVE BEEN MINE A LONG TIME AGO.

I FEEL... COLD...DEATH... AND MORE.
THE CAVE IS POWER. AND DARKNESS.
AND YOU WILL ENTER.
WHAT'S IN THERE?
ONLY WHAT YOU'VE BEEN TOO WEAK TO BURY.
OR YOU CAN RUN AWAY, IF YOU'D LIKE.

I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU.

VMMMM

I DON'T CARE.

I SENSE YOUR DECISION. GOOD.

"SKYWALKER WOULD HAVE MURDERED YOU IN YOUR SLEEP.

RAARGHHH!

VMMM

CHZZZZT

BECAUSE YOUR UNCLE FEARED YOU.

FEARED HOW FORMIDABLE YOU COULD BECOME.

"YOUR HATRED FOR HIM IS RIGHT.

"USE THAT HATRED.

"RISE ABOVE WHAT'S HOLDING YOU BACK.

"STRIKE. STRIKE AGAINST THE LIGHT SIDE WITHIN YOU!

"STRIKE!!!"
VMMM

I'M READY, MASTER.
I'M DONE.
YOU ARE NOT DONE. IT IS FAR FROM OVER.
BEN?

BEN.
PLEASE STOP.

PLEASE, BEN.
THAT...
...THAT ISN'T MY NAME.
IT IS. YOU ARE BEN SOLO.
YOU ARE OUR SON.
AND YOU ARE LOVED.

"I FEEL THE STRUGGLE WITHIN YOU.

"DEFEAT IT.

VMMMM

"YES.

"I FEEL YOUR LIGHTSABER IGNITE.

"I FEEL THE DECISION YOU'VE MADE.

VMM

"THAT'S IT.

"YES!

VMMM

THD

THD

AGHHHH!!!

"KILL THE CONNECTION.

"SNUFF IT OUT!"

SHHHZT

WELL DONE, MY APPRENTICE. IT IS FINISHED.
I WOULD LIKE TO SEE--
RMMMMBLE
KOOOOOM

YOUR SHOW OF POWER IS IMPRESSIVE.
BUT THAT CAVE HAD STOOD FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS.
THE PAST IS THE PAST.
I HOPED TO BRING OTHER APPRENTICES TO IT.
YOU WON'T NEED OTHER APPRENTICES.
End.

Art by Ivan Manzella

AGE OF RESISTANCE

Darkness Rises: Supreme Leader Snoke and His Conquest of the Universe

By Bryan Young

There's not much known about Supreme Leader Snoke. He's an enigma whose existence brings about more questions than have been answered. How did he know the secret of Darth Vader's identity in order to turn Ben Solo's young heart? How did Snoke know of Yoda's refuge on Dagobah in order to train his new apprentice there? Are these things he learned from personal knowledge and interactions? Are they things he's plucked out of the heads of passersby using the Force?

All of these things are a mystery. Perhaps they always will be.

Talking to Conan O'Brien, Andy Serkis--who played Snoke in *The Force Awakens* and *The Last Jedi*--said, "Snoke, any great leader, likes a lot of mystery around them, but some leaders like Snoke--that mystery helps them be more powerful. But [after the events of *The Force Awakens*] he's under threat and has a lot of fear."

According to Serkis, that fear--fear of his own plight and instilling fear in others--is partly where Snoke draws his power from.

THE WIZARD OF OZ

The idea of controlling by fear is an old one. *Star Wars* got some of its cinematic inspiration of this concept from *The Wizard of Oz*. "When George made *A New Hope*, he was influenced very much by Kurosawa and by Flash Gordon and by *The Wizard of Oz*," the *Star Wars* screenwriter Lawrence Kasdan said at the world press conference for *The Force Awakens*. "And I think that all those movies, you can feel them in *A New Hope*, and everything that's in *A New Hope* has come down through the movies to this day."

As far as Snoke, the parallels to the actual Wizard of Oz couldn't be clearer. He appears at first as a giant apparition, ruling by fear. Everyone in his command is afraid of his power, from his lowly stormtroopers to his chief general, Hux. Though Snoke has abilities in the Force, perhaps abilities beyond what viewers had ever seen previously, his chief tool is his mystery and fear, used to instill loyalty--to a point.

It's this fear that Snoke uses to manipulate Kylo Ren into doing his bidding. "He's using you for your power," Han Solo tells his son in *The Force Awakens*. "He'll crush you."

And maybe he would have, had Kylo not crushed him first.

KILLING SNOKE

In a film packed with epic moments, few could reach the heights of the throne room scene in *The Last Jedi*, which would prove to be the final confrontation between Kylo Ren and Snoke. Audiences had no idea that Snoke would suffer the fate he did at the hands of his apprentice. Audiences in theaters gasped when Kylo Ren ignited Rey's lightsaber and were shocked to their cores when he pulled it through Snoke's gold-robed body. And who could forget the collective cheer when Rey caught the saber in her hand and we realized we would be treated to the team-up we'd all dreamed of: Rey fighting back-to-back with Ben Solo.

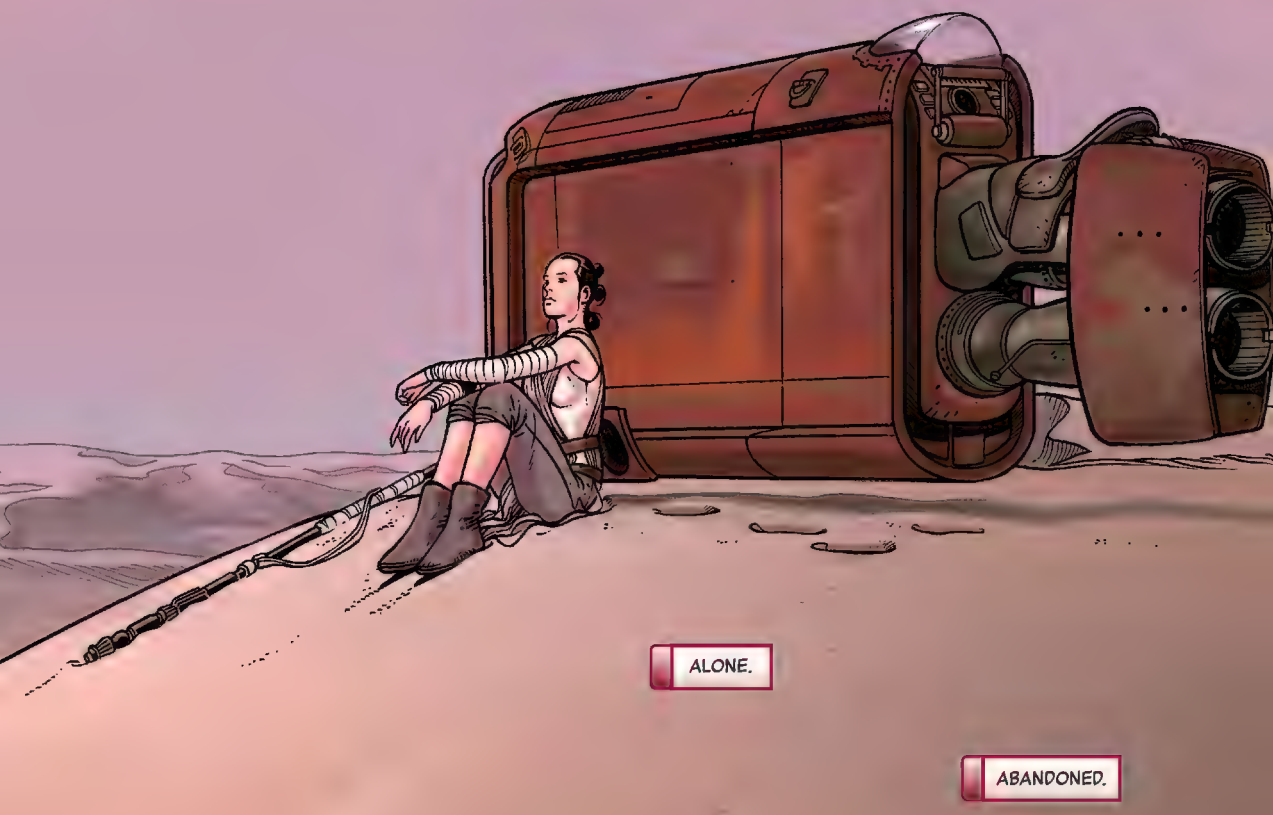
Speaking to *Entertainment Weekly*, writer/director Rian Johnson talked about how he was trying to come up with ways to test Kylo Ren the most. He wanted to lead him to be a more complex character, trying to find his own way by the end of the film. "That made me realize the most interesting thing would be to eliminate that dynamic between the 'emperor' and pupil, so that all bets are off going into the next one."

And as we look at what could be possible as we learn more about Snoke and take into account what might be happening in *The Rise of Skywalker*, given Palpatine's involvement, it's clear that Rian Johnson is right. All bets are off.

"ALONE"

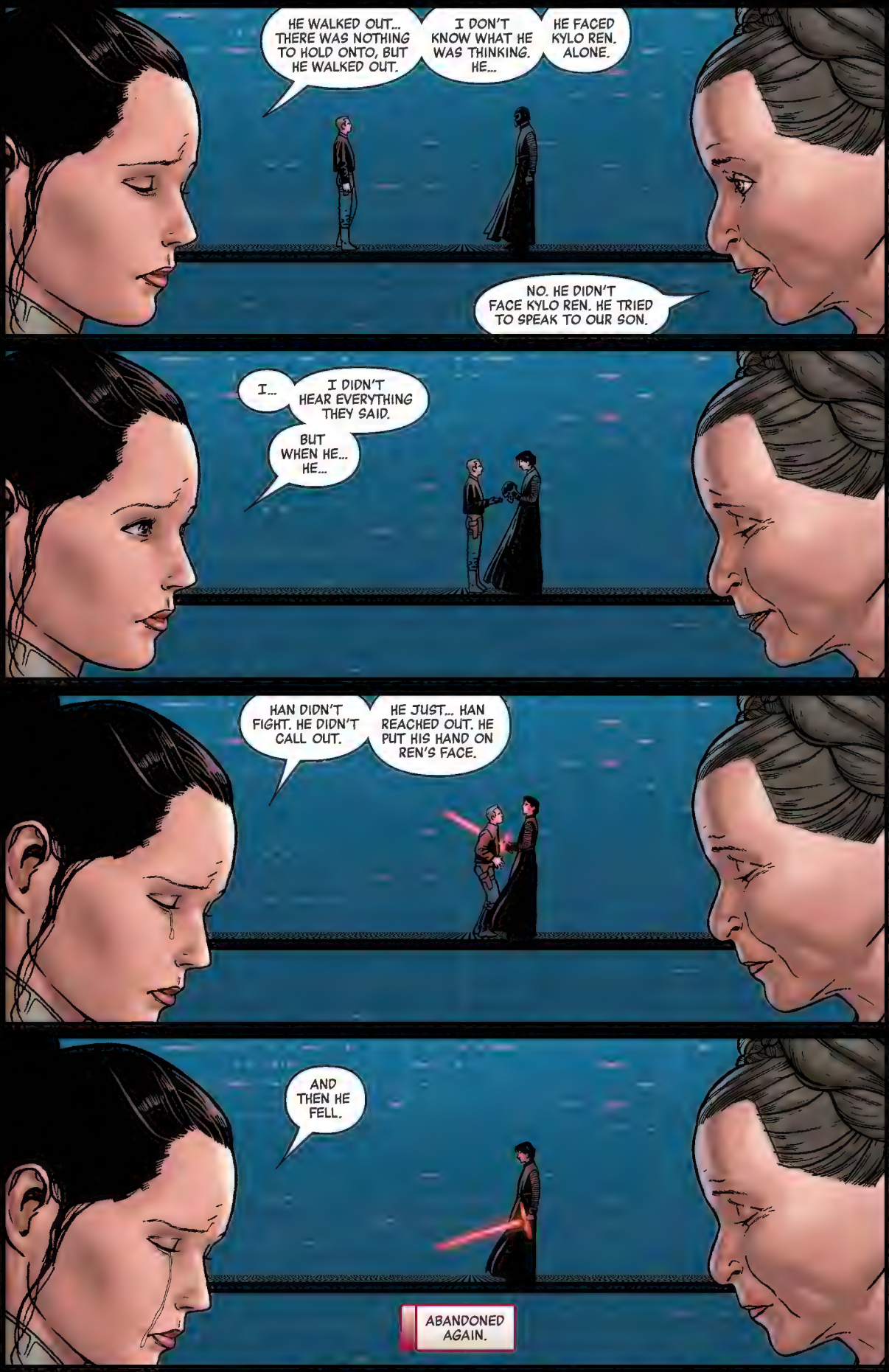
Orphaned on the desert planet Jakku, Rey has lived her whole life alone. That is, until she joined the Resistance, a band of intergalactic freedom fighters who defend the galaxy from the villainous First Order. Now she may be the Resistance's last hope as she works toward strengthening her connection to the Force....

I WAS LEFT BEHIND.
LOST.


ALONE.
ABANDONED.

D'Qar.
The Outer Rim.
The Resistance Base.
RRRR?
COME ON. I CAN'T CRY ON YOUR SHOULDER ANYMORE.
I'M GETTING YOUR FUR ALL WET, AND NO ONE WANTS THE SMELL OF WET WOOKIEE HAIR IN HERE.
GO PREP THE FALCON.
RRRRAAA.
GO ON, CHEWIE. SHE NEEDS YOU.
EXCUSE ME, GENERAL ORGANA?

YOU WANTED TO SEE ME BEFORE WE LEFT TO FIND SKYWALKER?
REY. THANK YOU. YES, I DID.
HAVE A SEAT.
SORRY IF YOU WERE WAITING A WHILE. A HUG WITH A WOOKIEE LASTS AS LONG AS THE WOOKIEE WANTS IT TO LAST.
I'D LIKE YOU TO TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED.
WITH HAN. WITH BEN.
I THOUGHT...?
I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. I...FELT IT. BUT TELL ME ANYWAY.
IT'S OKAY.


HE WALKED OUT... THERE WAS NOTHING TO HOLD ONTO, BUT HE WALKED OUT.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE WAS THINKING. HE...
HE FACED KYLO REN. ALONE.
NO. HE DIDN'T FACE KYLO REN. HE TRIED TO SPEAK TO OUR SON.
I...
I DIDN'T HEAR EVERYTHING THEY SAID.
BUT WHEN HE... HE...
HAN DIDN'T FIGHT. HE DIDN'T CALL OUT.
HE JUST... HAN REACHED OUT. HE PUT HIS HAND ON REN'S FACE.
AND THEN HE FELL.
ABANDONED AGAIN.

HE SHOULDN'T HAVE FACED HIM. HE SHOULD HAVE RUN.
HAN ALWAYS... HIS FIRST INSTINCT WAS ALWAYS TO RUN WHEN THINGS GOT HARD.
BUT HE NEVER RAN FAR. HE ALWAYS CAME BACK. HE ALWAYS STEPPED UP AGAIN.
HAN KNEW THERE'S A TIME TO RUN AND THERE'S A TIME TO MAKE A STAND.
HOW DO YOU LEAD ALL THIS WHEN EVERYTHING SEEMS HOPELESS?
WHAT STOPS YOU FROM RUNNING?
THAT INSTINCT TO RUN--FEEL IT WHEN IT COMES.
USE IT TO SPUR YOU ON TO THE NEXT MOMENT.
IS THAT WHAT YOU DO?
SURE.
I'M ALSO A PRETTY GOOD SHOT WITH A BLASTER.
SERIOUSLY. IT'S A LOT EASIER TO STAND AND FIGHT WHEN YOU KNOW YOU CAN OUT-SHOOT ALMOST ANYTHING THAT STANDS IN YOUR WAY.

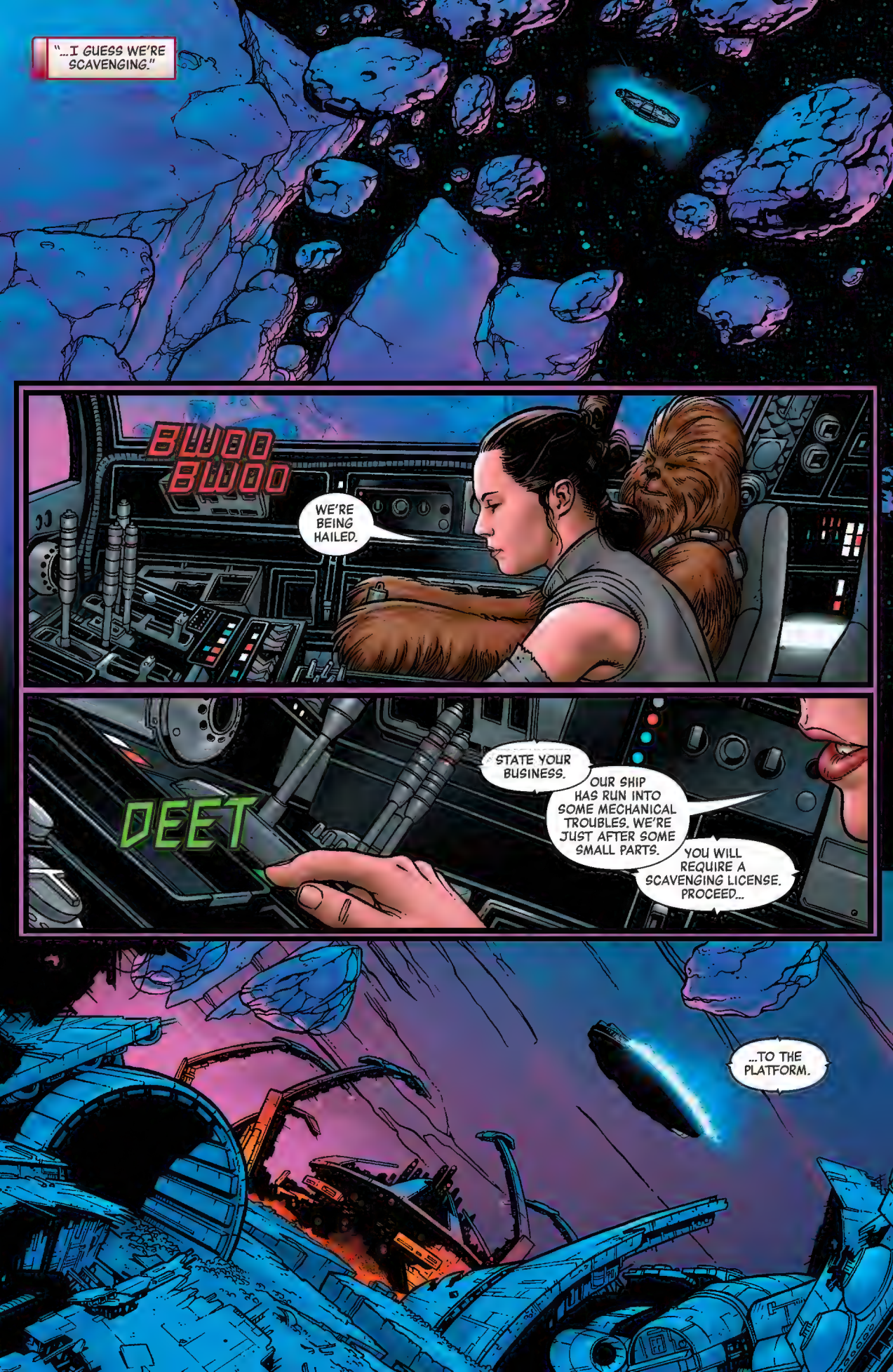
BUT HOW DO YOU DO IT ALONE?
I'M NOT ALONE.
YOU ARE NOT ALONE, REY.
NOT ANYMORE.
YOU'RE PART OF SOMETHING. SOMETHING BIGGER THAN WHOMEVER YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE BEFORE.
"EVERYTHING YOU DO, EVERYWHERE YOU GO, YOU HAVE THE HOPE OF A GALAXY WITH YOU.

"MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU."
YOU THINK SHE'LL FIND HIM?
SHE'LL FIND HIM, POE.
SHE'D BETTER. LUKE MAY BE OUR ONLY HOPE.
NO. I BELIEVE...
"...THERE IS ANOTHER."
OKAY, CHEWIE.
PUNCH IT.

WMMMMM
WHAT WAS THAT?
WOO WOOO WOOO
IS THAT AN ALARM? ALARMS ARE NEVER GOOD.
RRRRRR!
OUR SYSTEMS ARE OVERLOADING!
DID WE HIT SOMETHING? HOW?
BWEEE BWOOO!
YES, ARTOO. I REALIZE, BY DEFINITION, IT'S HARD TO CHART A COURSE THOUGH UNCHARTED SPACE.
WHO PROGRAMMED YOU WITH ATTITUDE?

CHZZZT
ARROWRR!!!
BWEEOOO!
THE COMPRESSOR AGAIN?
CHEWIE! TAKE US OUT OF HYPERSPACE!
RRR!!
I DID BYPASS THE COMPRESSOR, BUT I JUST TORE A PART OUT. IT WAS HARDLY A PERMANENT SOLUTION.
WAIT. WHAT'S THAT? IT SMELLS LIKE SOMETHING'S...
...BURNING!
ROOOWARR!
BLAST!
ARTOO! PUT CHEWIE OUT!!!
PSSHHHHH

THE MIGHTY CHEWBACCA...
YOU LOOK A LITTLE LESS FEARSOME COVERED IN FOAM.
THIS IS SHOT.
WE CAN'T JUMP FAR LIKE THIS. NOT WITHOUT RUNNING THE RISK OF BEING TORN TO PIECES AT LIGHTSPEED. WHICH I'D PREFER TO AVOID.
BUT WE NEED *PARTS.*
ARTOO, IS THERE ANYTHING NEARBY? A PORT OR A SHIPYARD OR...
WOOO
BWOOOP
THE *NECROPOLIS?* THAT SOUNDS WELCOMING.
AN ENTIRE JUNKYARD PLANET? OKAY...


"...I GUESS WE'RE SCAVENGING."
BWOO BWOO
WE'RE BEING HAILED.
DEET
STATE YOUR BUSINESS.
OUR SHIP HAS RUN INTO SOME MECHANICAL TROUBLES. WE'RE JUST AFTER SOME SMALL PARTS.
YOU WILL REQUIRE A SCAVENGING LICENSE. PROCEED...
...TO THE PLATFORM.

WELCOME TO THE NECROPOLIS.
I AM ARA-NEA. YOU WOULD LIKE TO PICK THE BONES OF THE FALLEN?
"PICK THE BONES OF THE FALLEN"?
YES. A LITTLE MORBID, PERHAPS. BUT I OVERSEE A PLACE CALLED THE NECROPOLIS, SO IT FEELS APPROPRIATE.
A SCAVENGING LICENSE WILL BE 500 CREDITS.
500 CREDITS?!
OR, INSTEAD, YOU CAN TRY TO FIND WHAT YOU NEED IN THE EMPTY VOID OF SPACE.
TWEEEE BOOP
WE AGREE TO YOUR PRICE.
COME ON, CHEWIE. WE'LL GET DOWN THERE AND--
NO. YOUR CREW STAYS BEHIND IN YOUR SHIP. WHICH WILL BE CLAMPED.
YOUR LICENSE ENTITLES YOU TO TAKE WHATEVER YOU CAN CARRY, BUT THERE ARE STILL SOME FUNCTIONAL SHIPS DOWN THERE.
WE CAN'T HAVE YOU TAKING OFF IN SOMETHING BETTER THAN THE JUNK YOU ARRIVED IN. NOW...

"...YOU WILL BE LOWERED DOWN. ALONE."
THIS ISN'T SCAVENGING.
THIS IS A FEAST.
THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED.
THIS IS PERFECT.
BUT WHAT ARE ALL THESE SHIPS DOING HERE?
EVEN THE NEW REPUBLIC WOULD THINK ALL THIS WAS TOO VALUABLE TO JUST BE LEFT LYING AROUND. WHY HASN'T IT BEEN TAKEN AWAY FOR...?
RMMMMBLE
VMMM
THIS IS TOO PERFECT.

HSSSSSSS!

THERE'S A TIME TO MAKE A STAND.

AND THERE'S A TIME TO RUN!

CRNCHHH

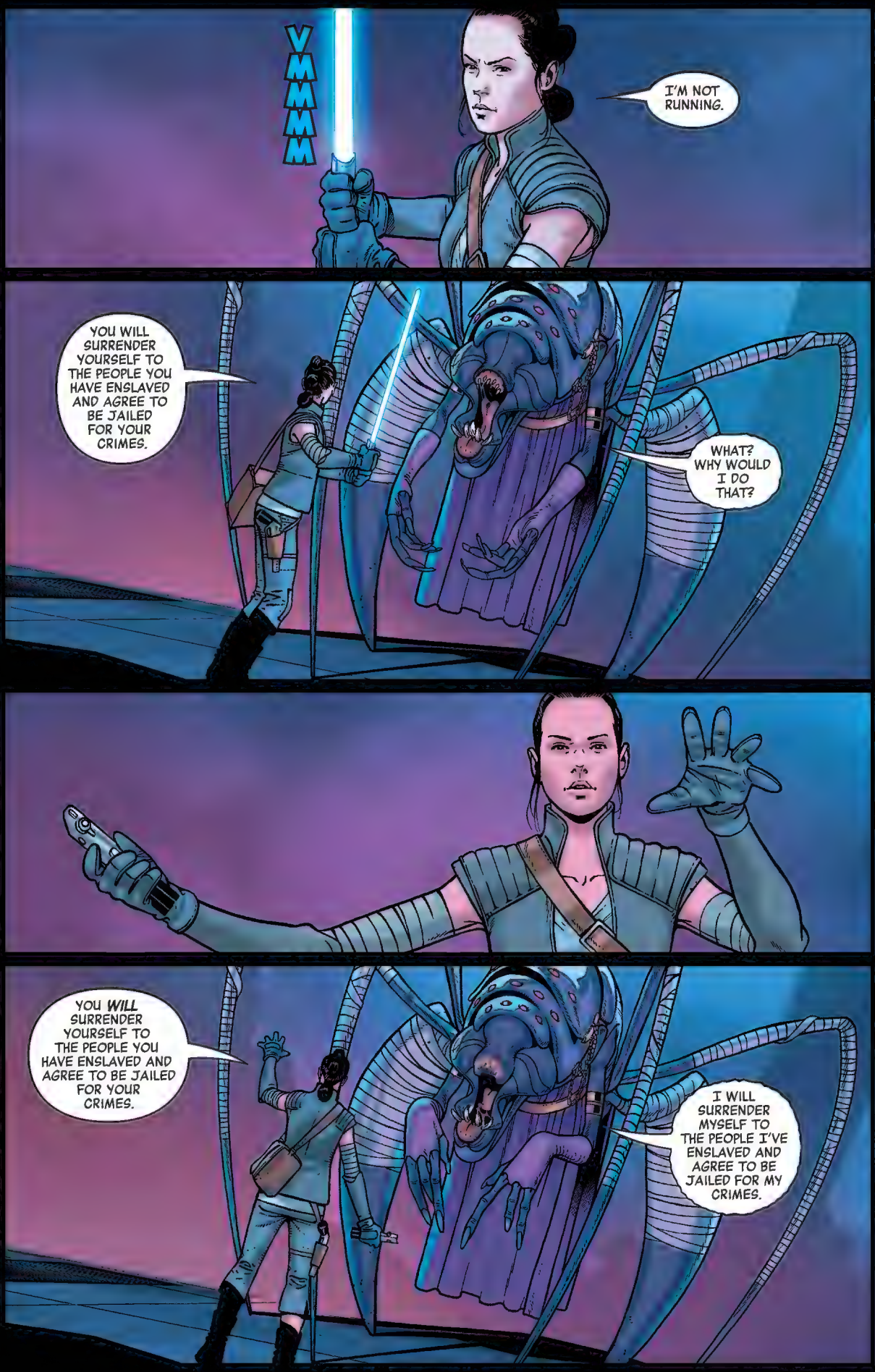
HSSSSSS

HSS S SSS

THERE!

TOOOOM
FWOOOOM
CSSH
ARA-NEA!

YOU'RE BACK? FROM...THE NECROPOLIS?
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO...
SUPPOSED TO WHAT?
THE NECROPOLIS. *YOU* MADE IT.
YOU LAID A TRAP. THAT ENERGY SURGE WE HIT IN HYPERSPACE.
YOU'VE BEEN LURING SHIPS HERE. TAKING THEIR MONEY. SEPARATING THE CREWS. SENDING PEOPLE DOWN THERE TO THEIR DEATHS.
YOU. ALL OF YOU.
DO YOU WORK FOR HIM, OR ARE YOU SLAVES?
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
ARE THERE PRISON CELLS HERE?
YES.
THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN TO, GIRL.


VMMMM
I'M NOT RUNNING.
YOU WILL SURRENDER YOURSELF TO THE PEOPLE YOU HAVE ENSLAVED AND AGREE TO BE JAILED FOR YOUR CRIMES.
WHAT? WHY WOULD I DO THAT?
YOU *WILL* SURRENDER YOURSELF TO THE PEOPLE YOU HAVE ENSLAVED AND AGREE TO BE JAILED FOR YOUR CRIMES.
I WILL SURRENDER MYSELF TO THE PEOPLE I'VE ENSLAVED AND AGREE TO BE JAILED FOR MY CRIMES.

HERE.
RRR?
CNK
SORRY I TOOK A WHILE.
I HAD TO OVERTHROW A VICIOUS DESPOT AND INSTALL A NEW LEADERSHIP.
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT'S LIKE.
ROOOAARRR.
WMMMM
THAT'S IT.
IF THAT PART HOLDS UP, THERE'S FAR LESS RISK OF SUDDEN, CATASTROPHIC IMPLOSION IN HYPERSPACE. NOW...

"...LET'S GO FIND LUKE SKYWALKER."
Ahch-To.
RRRR?
IT'S OKAY, CHEWIE.
I'M NOT ALONE.
NOT ANYMORE.
I HAVE THE HOPE OF A GALAXY WITH ME.
End.

Art by Glyn Dillon

AGE OF RESISTANCE

Rey – Hope for the Next Generation and Ours

By Bria LaVorgna

Before I sat down to write this essay, I tweeted one simple question: "What does Rey mean to you?" The first two answers I received were "how much time do you have?", followed by an emphatic "Everything!" As the responses continued for the next few days, people poured their hearts out and the themes of hope, resilience and goodness quickly emerged. I couldn't possibly think of three better words to sum up not only who Rey is as a person and a character but also the unbelievably positive impact she's had on the *Star Wars* community as a whole.

While *Star Wars* has a long tradition of capable female characters like Leia and Padmé who fight right alongside the men, Rey became something different at that moment in *The Force Awakens* when Luke Skywalker's lightsaber flew right past Kylo and into her hand. She became *the* hero of the sequel trilogy and for the first time, we had a female Force user at the heart of a *Star Wars* movie. She was what so many of us had been waiting for; a chance to feel like the center of the story.

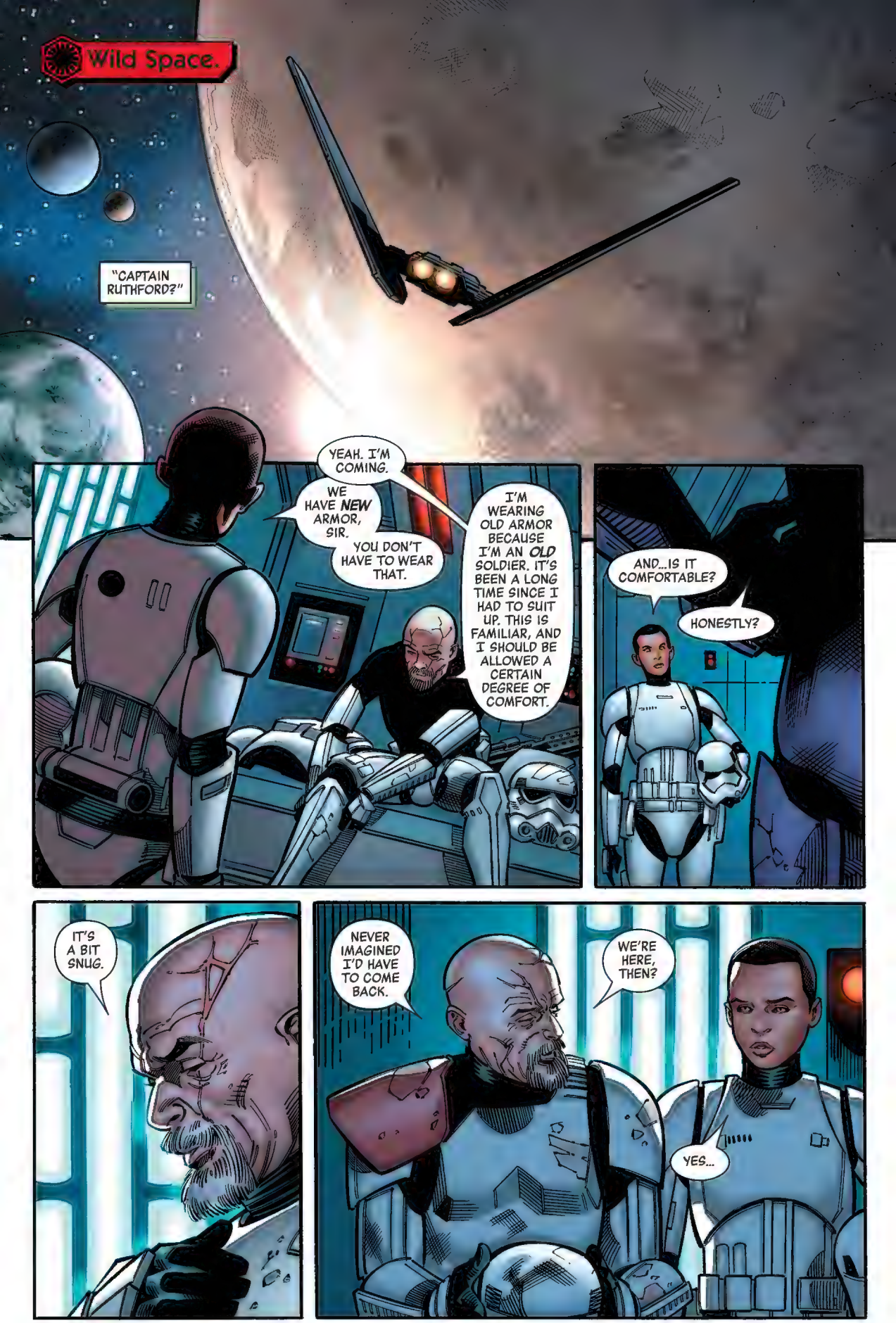
Rey is inspiring for far more than her gender though. The galaxy presented Rey with every opportunity to embrace the dark side but she never did. Separated from her parents and left to live in a desert wasteland as a child, she became a scavenger by necessity, making a home for herself in a downed AT-AT. Kindnesses from others were few and far between. Every skill she picked up, from languages to flying, were ones she had to teach herself. The sands of Jakku weren't an ideal place to learn about trust and friendship especially when other scavengers were more likely to steal a ship she'd worked to restore to flight condition than to offer genuine help without a hidden agenda. And yet, Rey stayed a good person, helping others when she could have easily walked away. "My favorite thing about [her] is that strong moral compass. Even having grown up quite lonely, she meets people and immediately tries to do the right thing," said actress Daisy Ridley in an interview with *Rolling Stone*. Rey says no to the dark because it's the right thing to do.

In an interview with the *Los Angeles Times*, Kathleen Kennedy described Rey as "[embodying] that sense of self-reliance and independence," both traits which partially define Rey especially when audiences first met her in *The Force Awakens*. She is a woman who can take care of herself and perseveres even when everything and everyone around her tells her no. But now she doesn't have to rely on just herself. By helping a stranger in need and a curious little round droid, the loner scavenger girl became a part of something bigger and now has people who truly care about her and see her value in more than quarter portions. Rey found the belonging Maz Kanata knew she sought in Finn, Poe, Chewbacca, Leia and the rest of the Resistance.

It's impossible for any one character to be everything to everyone, but Rey's positive impact cannot be overstated. Walk around any convention and you'll see dozens of women and girls dressed up as Rey, ranging in age from toddlers to parents, but all with their faces lit up with a pure love of *Star Wars*. Rey has brought new fans to the *Star Wars* franchise and reinvigorated a love for it in others. While we don't yet know how Rey's story ends, we do know that she has inspired people both in a galaxy far, far away and in ours. She is hope, she is resilience, she is the light. Rey from nowhere is the hero we need and deserve.

"OUT OF THE SHADOW"

The son of Princess Leia Organa and smuggler Han Solo, Ben Solo was once one of the most promising of the new generation of Jedi. That is, until his uncle, Jedi Master Luke Skywalker, sensed the dark side in Ben. Since then, Ben has abandoned the ways of the Jedi. As Kylo Ren of the ruthless First Order, he now walks a dark path....


Wild Space.
"CAPTAIN RUTHFORD?"
YEAH. I'M COMING.
WE HAVE NEW ARMOR, SIR.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WEAR THAT.
I'M WEARING OLD ARMOR BECAUSE I'M AN OLD SOLDIER. IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I HAD TO SUIT UP. THIS IS FAMILIAR, AND I SHOULD BE ALLOWED A CERTAIN DEGREE OF COMFORT.
AND...IS IT COMFORTABLE?
HONESTLY?
IT'S A BIT SNUG.
NEVER IMAGINED I'D HAVE TO COME BACK.
WE'RE HERE, THEN?
YES...

"...I WILL INFORM KYLO REN."

PSHH
THEY'VE ERECTED A TENT FOR THE NEGOTIATION.
AND OUR FORCES ARE IN PLACE IF THE NEGOTIATION FAILS, ADMIRAL?
OF COURSE.
CAPTAIN. YOU ARE THE ONLY SOLDIER LEFT ALIVE FROM THE LAST BATTLE HERE.
YES.
HOW DID YOU SURVIVE?
DUMB LUCK MOSTLY.
I DOUBT THAT. YOU WILL ACCOMPANY AND ADVISE.

THIS IS WHERE I WILL SUCCEED.

"...WHERE *VADER* FAILED."

I'M NOT SURE YOU CAN SAY HE FAILED. HE DID MANAGE TO SUBDUE THEM.

BUT STILL, WE ARE WALKING IN DARTH VADER'S SHADOW.

THIS IS THE FIELD WHERE HE FOUGHT. THERE IS GLORY HERE.

GLORY? NAH. THERE'S NONE OF THAT BURIED OUT THERE.

THERE ARE ONLY WASTED LIVES...

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE *BENATHY?*

THEY'RE A PROUD RACE. STUBBORN. THEY VALUE SIZE AND STRENGTH ABOVE ALL ELSE.

WHICH IS WHY I HAVE COME.

OH...

"...THERE ARE THINGS BIGGER THAN YOU."
WELCOME.
KING KRISTOFF.

TAKE A SEAT.
NO. I DON'T THINK SO.
WHY NOT?
YOU WOULD HAVE ME LOOKING LIKE AN INFANT.
YOU HAVE WIPED OUT ALL LIFE ON FOUR NEARBY PLANETS.
THEY WERE VERY SMALL PLANETS.
YOU ARE EXPANDING. YOU WILL STOP.
I REMEMBER WHEN ANOTHER LIKE YOU CAME HERE WITH DEMANDS.
HE WAS TALLER.
FAR MORE IMPRESSIVE.
HE KILLED OUR LAST KING. BUT EVEN HE COULD NOT STAND AGAINST OUR GOD.
HE PUT YOU DOWN.
WE GOT BACK UP.

YOU WILL STOP YOUR EXPANSION. YOU WILL SUBMIT TO THE FIRST ORDER.
WHY WOULD WE DO THAT?
YOU WILL *STOP* YOUR EXPANSION.
YOU. WILL. *SUBMIT.* TO. THE. *FIRST. ORDER.*
JUST SAYING THE SAME THING SLOWER DOESN'T MAKE YOU ANY MORE PERSUASIVE, BOY.
IT JUST MAKES *YOU* SOUND SLOWER.
DON'T ANNOY HIM.
WHY SHOULD I NOT?

VRR
RMMM
BECAUSE HE'S A LITTLE TOUCHY.

HE'S KILLED THE KING!!!
ROAAARGH!

VRRMMMM

VRRRMMMMM

NOT SO TALL WITHOUT LEGS.

THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A NEGOTIATION.
YES.
IT'S KIND OF HARD TO NEGOTIATE WITH DEAD PEOPLE.
REALLY? I DIDN'T HEAR ANYONE OBJECTING TO MY DEMANDS.
ROOON
ROOOOOOON
YOU SHOULD CALL A RETREAT.
DID VADER RETREAT?
NO. HE DID ENOUGH BEFORE THEIR GOD CAME. HE FOUGHT AND THOUSANDS DIED ON BOTH SIDES.
BUT IT'S NOT A COMPETITION.

ATTACK.

ATTACK!!!

VMMMM

CHOOOM

HRAAARGH!!

GRRMMM

ROOOOA

KSSH HOOO

IT'S HERE.

"THEIR GOD."
FIRE!!!
YOU DO UNDERSTAND ZILLO BEASTS ARE UNBREAKABLE, YES?
NOTHING'S UNBREAKABLE.

CHOOM CHOOM CHOOOM
ROAAARGHH!!!
ROAARGHH!
ROAARGHHH!!
CRNCH
CRSSHH

THE SHUTTLE!
I NEED THE SHUTTLE!
YOU WHAT?
HEY! YOU ASKED ME TO ACCOMPANY AND ADVISE.
HERE'S MY ADVICE...
...YOU CAN'T PROVE ANYTHING TO A DEAD MAN.
STUPID KID...

"...A PERSON CAN'T TAKE ON A GOD.
"NO MATTER WHO HE'S TRYING TO LIVE UP TO.
ROAAARGH!
"THERE'S NO GLORY HERE...
"...JUST ANOTHER WASTED LIFE."

CRNCH
NICE ONE, KID.
WAY TO GET EATEN.
I'M SURE YOUR GRANDDAD WOULD BE REALLY IMPRESSED.
HEY, ADMIRAL.
YOUR LEADER HAS BEEN SWALLOWED. CAN I SUGGEST WE--
LOOK OUT!

RAAOOOR--
KOOOM
VRRRMM
RIIIP

YOUR GOD IS DEAD!
NOW YOU WORSHIP ONLY THE FIRST ORDER.
YOU KNOW HOW I SAID IT WASN'T A COMPETITION?
YES.
YOU WON.
End.

Art by Doug Chiang

AGE OF RESISTANCE

Ben Solo - Part Skywalker, Part Vader, All Solo

By Bryan Young

From the moment it was revealed that Kylo Ren was the son of Han Solo and Princess Leia, *Star Wars* fans would never be the same. Questions swirled. How could the child of two such amazing people turn so evil?

When Han Solo called out to his son across that bridge--"Ben!"--our collective hearts broke. Han still loved his son and wanted to do anything to help him, and we knew it. And then Ben did the unforgivable: He murdered his lovable scoundrel of a father, an icon beloved by many, both inside the *Star Wars* universe and in our universe as well.

Can Ben Solo come back from such a thing? Will he reconcile his feelings about Luke and Rey and his mother into something that brings him back from the brink of darkness? Or will he descend further into darkness and die the villain his parents would both be ashamed of?

Maybe his fate will be somewhere in between.

Only time will tell.

KYLO REN AT THE CROSSROADS

Whether or not you believe Kylo Ren can be redeemed for what he's done, that is the very crossroads he's at. Some view him as just a scared little boy dealing with the circumstances life gave him searching for the light; others see him as trying to live up to the legacy of his grandfather seeking the dark; others still fall somewhere in between. Whatever your feelings about Kylo Ren and his ability to be redeemed or not are, they're completely valid and true. We all see in Kylo Ren a different aspect of his tortured persona. Since each fan views Kylo Ren through their own personal experience, the many interpretations of the available information about him means that *all* of our perspectives are valid. The answer is in the heart of the individual person bearing witness to Ben Solo's story, even if that feeling about Ben Solo is merely indifference to his plight.

For me, one of the most interesting things about Kylo Ren/Ben Solo is where he's at in his journey. He's just at the beginning of his turn, and the light rages in him as strongly as the dark.

It is inevitable to compare Kylo Ren to Darth Vader. At the beginning of Vader's journey he was still seeking out a way to bring Padmé back or be with her, battling the light until, years later, he shut out all but the tiniest spark. Luke saw that pinhole of light that no one else did and was convinced Vader could be turned back. Rey saw that same thing in Ben. Vader saw in Luke a chance to turn his son to the dark side, just as Ben sees in Rey.

Who is right?

That's what's so fascinating about Ben Solo. We all see our own image of the swirling flow of light and dark inside of him, and it's different for all of us. He's the perfect encapsulation of the struggle between the two sides of existence for *Star Wars* fans.

THE JEDI KILLER

Kylo Ren began his life in the early treatments of *The Force Awakens* as "the Jedi Killer." The Lucasfilm art department didn't know anything about his name or his origin for years. It wasn't until much later that they learned that Kylo Ren was not only related to Han Solo, but that he would be killing his father in the course of the film. Shockwaves were felt internally, and this fact was one of the chief things protected by the extreme secrecy surrounding the first new *Star Wars* film in a decade.

Adam Driver, the actor behind Ben Solo, has known the character's eventual fate from the beginning. He told *Deadline* recently, "I had one piece of information of where it was all going, and that's where it has been in my head for a long time, and things were building toward that. It feels very theatrical, if anything."

Only one thing is for sure: As we all wait to see what Ben Solo's fate eventually is in *The Rise of Skywalker*, we'll each have our own way of understanding it.

"MAZ'S SCOUNDRELS"

Maz Kanata is the most well-connected underworld smuggler in the galaxy. Crossing her would not be wise. . . .

"THE BRIDGE"

Flying with the heroic Rebel Alliance might give the young minister Amilyn Holdo the chance she needs to prove all that she is capable of. . . .

"ROBOT RESISTANCE"

Infiltrating the First Order has become second nature to Poe Dameron. But controlling BB-8 could be a mission that nobody is prepared for. . . .

Wild Space.
WHY US, MAZ?
HE'S A DEVARONIAN. HIS NAME IS BARON SOMAREEVA. HE'S NOT A BARON OF ANYTHING, HE JUST LIKES THE NAME, AND HE'S BULLIED EVERYONE INTO CALLING HIM THAT.
HE STOLE SOMETHING FROM ME. I WANT IT BACK.
PARTLY BECAUSE YOU'RE CHEAP. MOSTLY BECAUSE THIS IS A HIT-AND-RUN OPERATION, HAN.
CHEWBACCA HITS VERY HARD...
RRRR.
...AND YOU RUN AWAY BETTER THAN ANYONE I'VE EVER KNOWN.
I'M...GONNA TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT.
HOW DELUSIONAL. GOOD FOR YOU!

ALSO, WE'RE HEADING TO AN ICE PLANET. IT'S BORING...
...BUT AN ICE PLANET PROVIDES THE PERFECT BLANK CANVAS FOR THE BEST-LOOKING SCOUNDREL I'VE EVER SEEN.
OH... HEY.
I MEAN, THAT'S NICE AND ALL, BUT...
HA!
OH, CHILD. I'M MATURE ENOUGH TO BE A CRUMBLING STATUE OF YOUR ANCESTORS.
COME BACK TO ME WHEN YOU CAN GROW A COAT LIKE THIS.
RRRR.

WHY AREN'T WE JUST FLYING TO THE STEEPLE?
BECAUSE WE'D BE FLYING INTO A WHOLE LOT OF CANNONS. BEST WE GO BY LAND.
SURE. I'M ALL FOR AVOIDING CANNONS.
OH, THERE ARE STILL CANNONS ON THE GROUND. BUT THEY'RE SMALLER ONES.
YOU SURE YOU CAN DRIVE THIS THING?
I CAN DRIVE ANYTHING.
BUCKLE UP.
CLK
RNNNNNN
VSSSSSH

THIS WALL OF THE PEAK IS THE WEAKEST. ONE HIT AND WE SHOULD BE IN.

SHOULD BE IN?

GOOD POINT. BETTER TO HIT IT TWICE THAN TO SLAM INTO IT.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR ONCE WE'RE IN?

YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW. BUT I'LL KNOW WHERE IT IS ONCE YOU GET US INSIDE.

THERE'S THE PEAK.

AND THERE ARE THE CANNONS!

CHOOM

CHOOM

TOOM

TOOM

THE WALL! AIM FOR THE WALL!

YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF THE WAY? I'M KINDA TRYING TO CHEAT DEATH HERE!

CHOOM

KOOOOOM

SCREEEEEEE

I KNOW WHERE IT IS.
WHAT? WHERE?
I'LL BE BACK. DON'T LET ANYONE FOLLOW ME. KEEP THE ENGINE RUNNING.
AND DON'T LET ANYONE DISFIGURE CHEWIE'S PERFECT FACE!
WHAT IS WITH YOU TWO?
RRRR. RAAARGH. RRRR. GRAAARGHHH.
CHOOM
WHOA. TOO MUCH INFORMATION, PAL.
RRRRR?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU SMELL SOMETHING? YOU ALWAYS SMELL SOMETHING.
RRRR!!!
CHEWIE! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
CHOOM

SOMAREEVA.
IT'S BARON SOMAREEVA, MAZ. THIS IS A PLEASANT SURPRISE, ASIDE FROM THE HOLE YOU PUT IN MY CASTLE.
THIS ISN'T A CASTLE, YOU SELF-AGGRANDIZING THUG.
THIS WHOLE PLACE IS HELD TOGETHER BY ICE. YOUR "CASTLE" IS ONE WARM DAY AWAY FROM BEING A PUDDLE.
NOW, RETURN THE ITEM TO ME.
YOU'LL NEVER FIND IT!
YOU'VE PUT IT BEHIND YOUR CHAIR.
OKAY... WELL, YOU'LL NEVER TAKE IT.
YOU'RE OUTNUMBERED.
AM I?
I KNOW YOUR REPUTATION, MAZ. BUT I'M NOT SCARED.
YOU SHOULD BE SCARED. NOT JUST BECAUSE I COULD EASILY TAKE ALL OF YOU.
BUT BECAUSE HE'S COMING.
AND YOU'RE WEARING A WOOKIEE PELT.

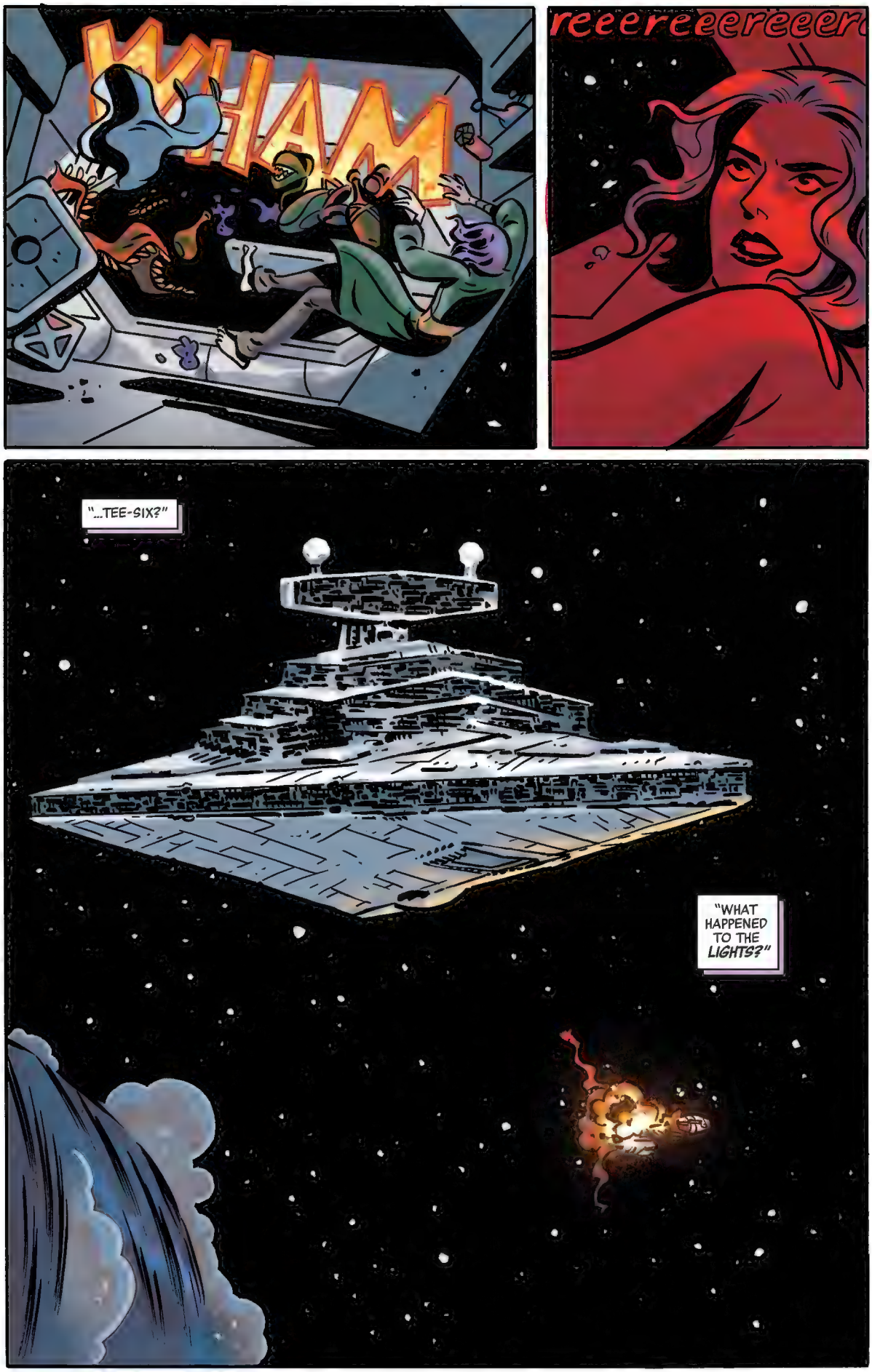
ROOOARGHHH!!
CHOOM
KROOOOM
THD
WHA?!

MAZ. WHAT IS HAPPENING IN H--?
AGHHHHH!!!
CHOOOM
CHOOOM
ROOAAARGHH!
CHOOOM
TOOOOM

RRR.
I'M SORRY, CHEWBACCA.
HERE. YOUR PAYMENT.
THIS IS...MORE THAN WE AGREED ON.
YES. WELL, I HAD A SEPARATE PRICE ON SOMAREEVA'S HEAD.
AND CHEWIE TOOK CARE OF HIS HEAD.
WHAT DID WE DO THIS FOR? WHAT DID THEY TAKE?
WHAT DID THEY TAKE?
THE SITH-SERVING SADIST WHO ONCE WORE THIS ALSO LIKED QUESTIONS.
ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW, HAN, IS EVERYTHING WE TAKE FROM THE DARK SIDE ALLOWS THE LIGHT TO SHINE BRIGHTER.
End.

Alliance Arms-Smuggling Ship
The Candor. Deep Space.
HMM.
TEE-SIX?
Brrk?
IS THIS PLANT FRESH? IT LOOKS A LITTLE GRUMPY.
Brrk
Uhhhk
OH WELL. I SUPPOSE IT'LL HAVE TO DO...
WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE?
THAT IS AMILYN HOLDO'S ROOM.
HRREEK!
Hrrrk

HOLDO? WASN'T SHE AN APPRENTICE SENATOR?
SHE WAS. NOW, AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, SHE CATCHES RIDES ON ALLIANCE SHIPS, GIVES THE OCCASIONAL ANTI-IMPERIAL SPEECH AND DYES HER HAIR WITH MOROGIAN SNAP PLANTS.
WHAT'S SHE DOING ALL THE WAY OUT HERE?
SEARCH ME. NOT HAULING ORDNANCE ACROSS FIVE WHOLE DECKS, I CAN TELL YOU THAT MUCH...
"I GUESS SOME PEOPLE ARE MEANT TO WORK, AND SOME ARE JUST DECORATIVE..."
AAAH. MUCH BETTER.
I WAS BEGINNING TO FEEL LIKE WE REALLY WERE MAROONED OUT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE--

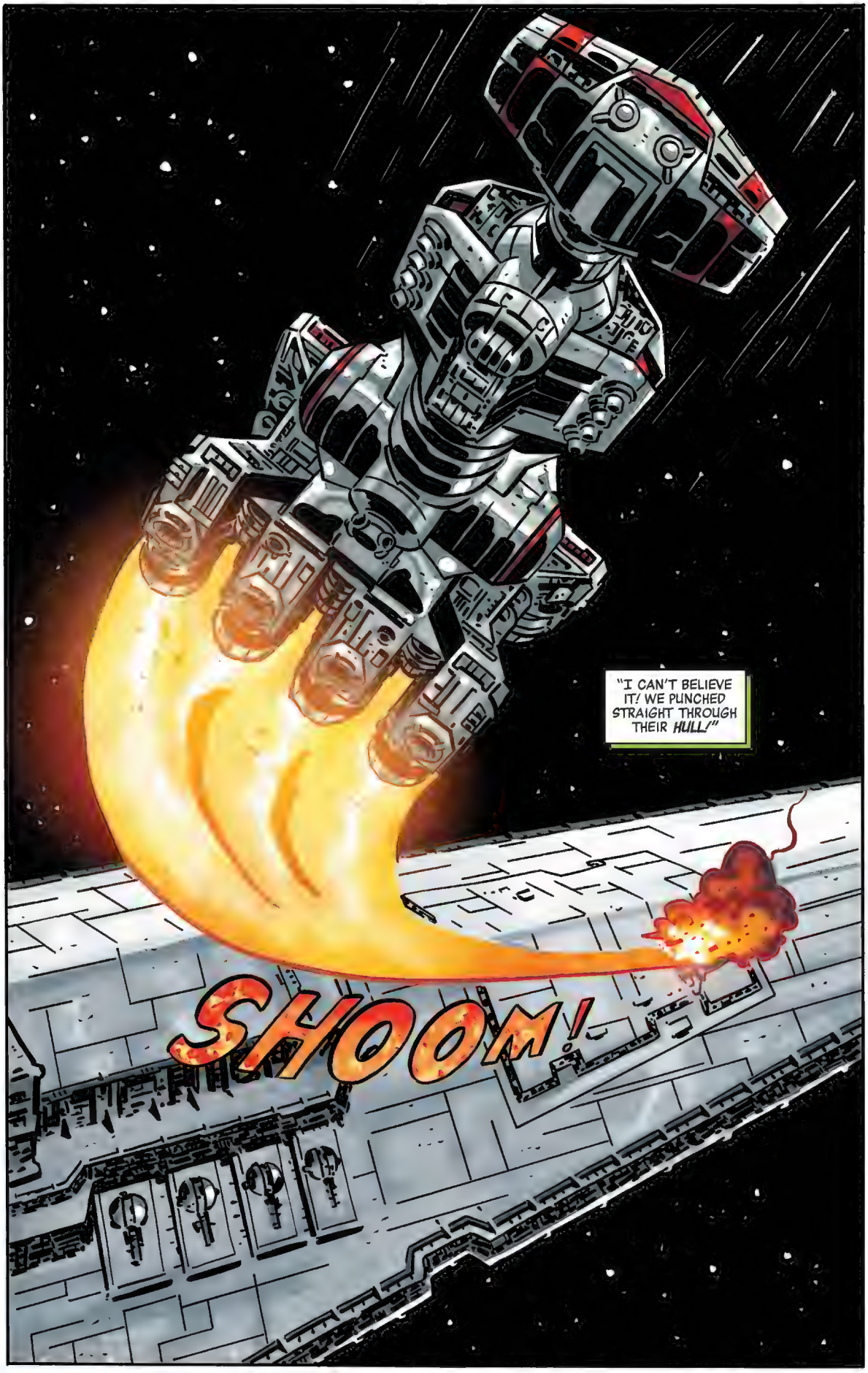

WHAM
reeereeereeer
"...TEE-SIX?"
"WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LIGHTS?"

reeereeereeereeereeereeere
GORTH!
SIR!
I NEED A DAMAGE REPORT-- NOW!
Kkrrr
"IT'S NO USE, SIR--THE WHOLE BRIDGE IS COMPROMISED!"
reeereeereeereeereeere

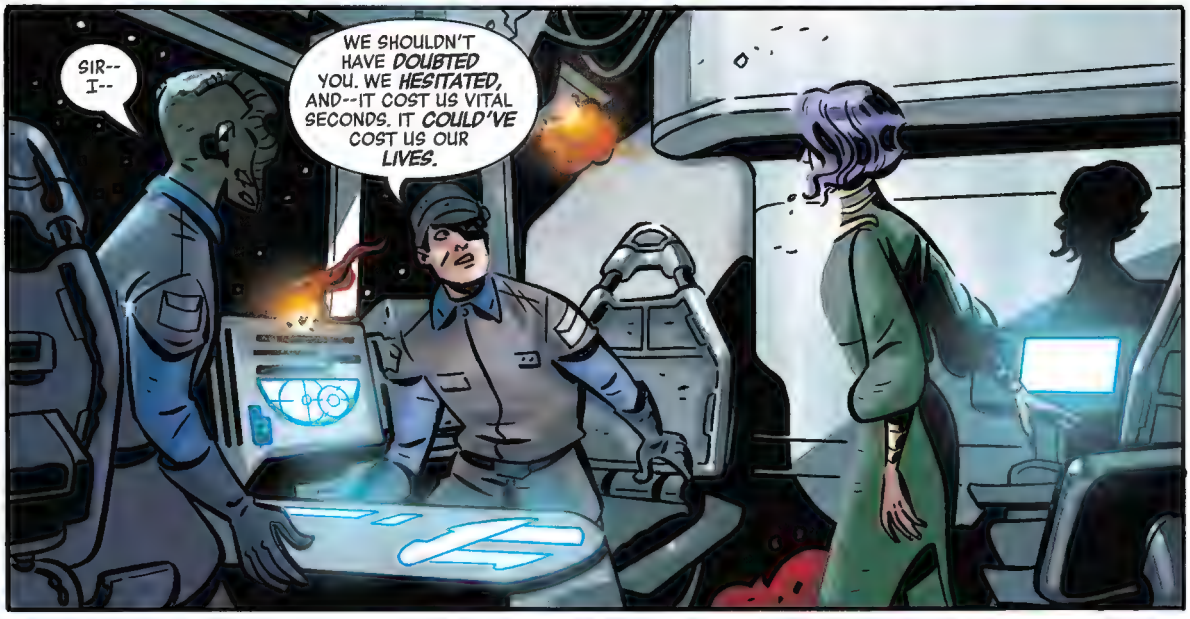
Meanwhile.
On The Bridge.
CAPTAIN JARDAR! SIR!
HE'S GONE...
IS THE ION DRIVE STILL FUNCTIONAL?
HUH?!
MINISTER HOLDO--YOU SHOULD BE BELOW DECKS. IT ISN'T SAFE UP HERE--
POOR JARDAR...
DON'T DESPAIR. HE IS ONE WITH THE FORCE NOW. IT IS WE WHO NEED EVERY ADVANTAGE WE CAN GET.
RUN DIAGNOSTICS. PREPARE TO ENGAGE SUB-LIGHT PROPULSION SYSTEMS.
WHAT?!
I AM NOW THE HIGHEST-RANKING PERSON ON THIS SHIP.
DO YOU WANT TO LIVE OR NOT?

"IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, THAT BUMP WE JUST FELT WAS THEIR TRACTOR BEAM ENGAGING. IT'S TIME TO MAKE A DECISION."
"...SIR. YES, SIR. ENGAGING ION DRIVE."
TURN US 90 DEGREES TOWARD THEIR HULL.
BUT THAT WILL POINT US INTO THE IMPERIAL SHIP!
I'M AWARE OF THAT. BUT AS LONG AS WE'RE IN THE THRALL OF THAT TRACTOR BEAM, WE CAN ONLY MOVE ONE WAY...
ON MY MARK, FIRE RIGHT INTO THAT CARGO BAY THEY'VE SO KINDLY OPENED UP FOR US.
BUT--
ON MY MARK.

FIRE.
TWOOM
TWOOM
RA-R
AGAIN.
TWOOM
TWOOM
WHAM!

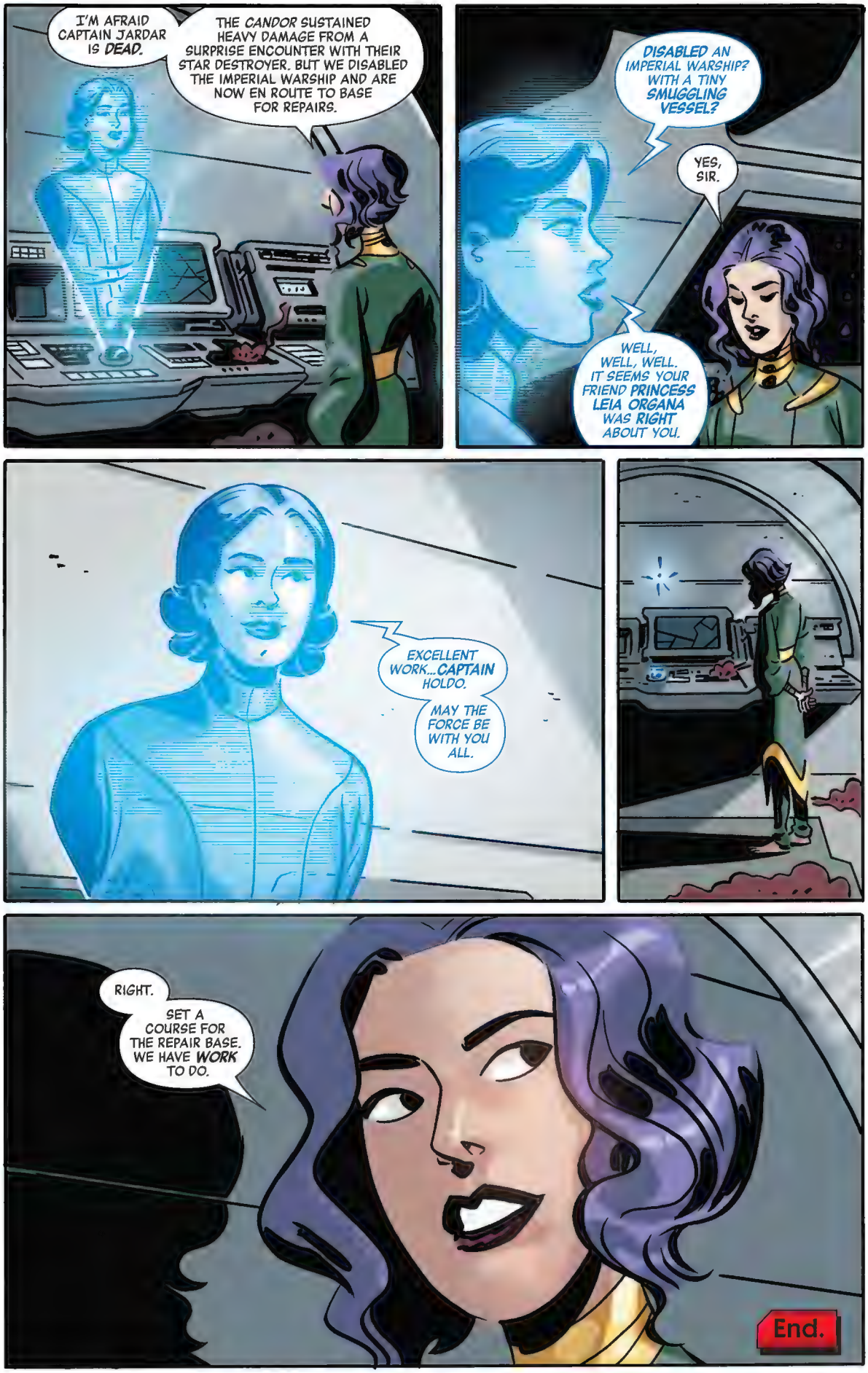

"I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! WE PUNCHED STRAIGHT THROUGH THEIR *HULL!*"
SHOOM!

YES! YES!
WHAT A MOVE! THAT WAS ONE IN A MILLION!


SIR-- I--
WE SHOULDN'T HAVE DOUBTED YOU. WE HESITATED, AND--IT COST US VITAL SECONDS. IT COULD'VE COST US OUR LIVES.

WELL. WE DIDN'T KNOW EACH OTHER VERY WELL AN HOUR AGO. THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH FIRST IMPRESSIONS... YOU CAN ONLY MAKE THEM ONCE.
BUT NOW I HOPE WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.

CAPTAIN JARDAR! WE HAVE RECEIVED YOUR DISTRESS SIGNAL--WHAT IS YOUR STATUS?


I'M AFRAID CAPTAIN JARDAR IS DEAD.
THE CANDOR SUSTAINED HEAVY DAMAGE FROM A SURPRISE ENCOUNTER WITH THEIR STAR DESTROYER. BUT WE DISABLED THE IMPERIAL WARSHIP AND ARE NOW EN ROUTE TO BASE FOR REPAIRS.
DISABLED AN IMPERIAL WARSHIP? WITH A TINY SMUGGLING VESSEL?
YES, SIR.
WELL, WELL, WELL. IT SEEMS YOUR FRIEND PRINCESS LEIA ORGANA WAS RIGHT ABOUT YOU.
EXCELLENT WORK...CAPTAIN HOLDO.
MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU ALL.
RIGHT.
SET A COURSE FOR THE REPAIR BASE. WE HAVE WORK TO DO.
End.

Jhosh.
The Fla'Nagan System.
THIS WAS THE EASY PART.
WITH THIS STOLEN FIRST ORDER CARGO SHIP, GETTING HERE WAS PAINLESS. GETTING WHAT WE WANT WON'T BE IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL.
BREAK INTO THE DATA CENTER, DOWNLOAD THEIR TROOP MOVEMENTS AND GET OUT.
AND, EVEN THOUGH YOU WON'T STAND OUT, YOU SHOULD REALLY BE DISCREET.

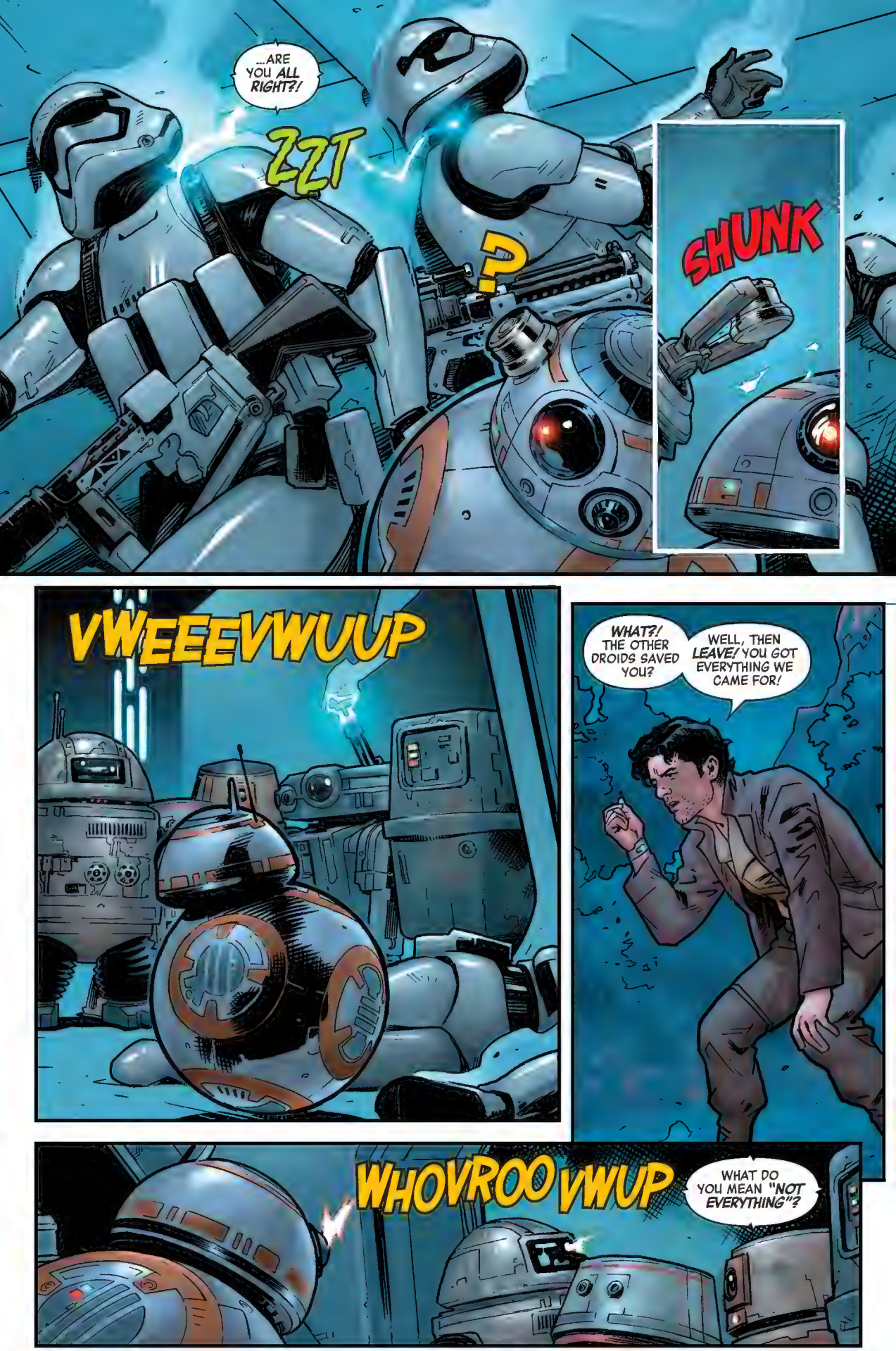
GOT IT, LITTLE BUDDY?
WHEEP WOORP WOO
I KNOW YOU, AND YOU ALWAYS GET YOURSELF INTO TROUBLE.
SO JUST PLAY IT SAFE, AND NO IMPROVISING.
WEEP WOO?
YES, YOU.
WOO WARRRP
THAT'S IT! THE DATA CENTER. YOU GOT THIS, BUDDY, AS LONG AS--
WHAOOOO!
--NOTHING DISTRACTS YOU.

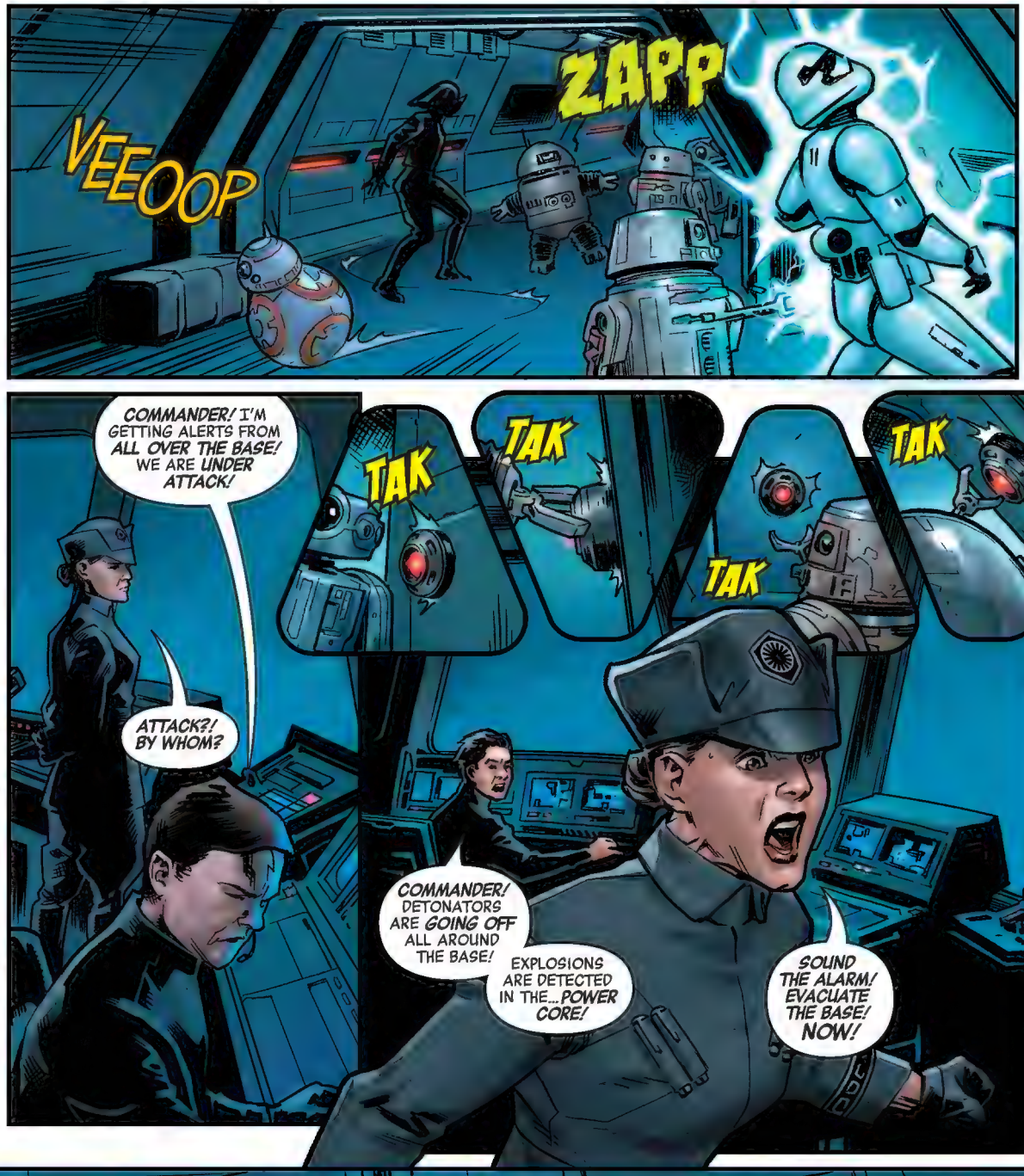
YOU DROIDS WILL LEARN WHO YOUR MASTERS ARE!
SKRZAAK
AAARRRRROOOOOOO!
VWOOO VOOOOO
NO! NO! DO NOT GET INVOLVED!
THIS IS NOT OUR MISSION. WE NEED THAT DATA TO PLAN OUR--
YOU WILL DO WHAT WE TELL YOU, OR THIS WILL GET WORSE!
SKKRZZAK
SKRZAK
VWROOO
NONONONONO! YOU'LL BLOW OUR COVER!
I PROMISE! ONCE WE GET THE DATA, WE CAN--

ZRAAAAP
FWUMP
BWEEEP!
WOOP WOOOP WOOP!
WEEWOOO!
ZREEP!
BOOPBEEP!
REEEWOOO!
THAT LITTLE DROID IS GONNA SEND ME TO AN EARLY GRAVE.

VWOOO VWOOOO!
OKAY, GOOD. GREAT! FIND THE DATA TERMINAL, PLUG IN, RETRIEVE THE DATA AND LEAVE.
SHUNK VRRRRR
VWOOO VWEEEEEE BOOP
WHAT?! NO! ABSOLUTELY NOT! YOU FINISH COLLECTING THE DATA AND YOU GET OUT OF THERE!
SHUNK
DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME?
BEEBEE-ATE?

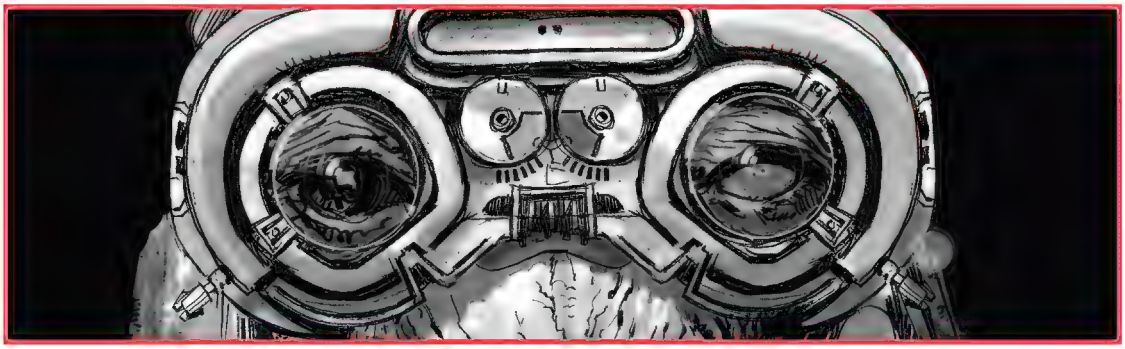
YOU DON'T BELONG HERE!
YOU HAVE ILLEGALLY ACCESSED ENCRYPTED DATA.
COME WITH US.
SHUNK
DON'T WORRY! I'M COMING, LITTLE BUDDY!
ZRAAAKK
WHOA!
BEEBEE-ATE! BEEBEE-ATE! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
BEEBEE-ATE, ANSWER ME...


...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
ZZT
?
SHUNK
VWEEEVWUUP
WHAT?! THE OTHER DROIDS SAVED YOU?
WELL, THEN LEAVE! YOU GOT EVERYTHING WE CAME FOR!
WHOVROO VWUP
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "NOT EVERYTHING"?


VEEOOP
ZAPP
COMMANDER! I'M GETTING ALERTS FROM ALL OVER THE BASE! WE ARE UNDER ATTACK!
ATTACK?! BY WHOM?
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
COMMANDER! DETONATORS ARE GOING OFF ALL AROUND THE BASE!
EXPLOSIONS ARE DETECTED IN THE...POWER CORE!
SOUND THE ALARM! EVACUATE THE BASE! NOW!
WHOMP WHOMP WHOMP WHOMP WHOMP WHOMP

BRAKKADOOM
OH NO... BEEBEE-ATE... WHAT AM I--?
WAIT... IS THAT--?
BEEBEE-ATE! YOU MADE IT OUT!
VWROO VWUP
AND YOU GOT THE DATA!
VREE VROOO VRIP
SURPRISE? WHAT SURPRISE?

Soon. Resistance Base LX-Robynsun V.
WELCOME BACK, COMMANDER.
WERE YOU SUCCESSFUL?
YES, GENERAL ORGANA, BUT ALL CREDIT GOES TO BEEBEE-ATE.
BESIDES GATHERING THE DATA, THE BASE WAS DESTROYED, AND THE FIRST ORDER COMMAND WON'T KNOW WE WERE THERE.
ALSO, WE WERE ABLE TO ADD SOME NEW RECRUITS TO THE RESISTANCE.
THEY ARE THE ONES WHO SAVED THE DAY. THEY TURNED ON THE FIRST ORDER AND SAVED BEEBEE-ATE!
WELL, THE RESISTANCE OWES YOU ALL A GREAT DEBT. THANK YOU.
WELCOME TO OUR NEW ROBOT RESISTANCE!
End.



Art by Glyn Dillon

AGE OF RESISTANCE SPECIAL

By Bria LaVorgna

BB-8: ROLLING PERFECTION

There is one simple truth in life: BB-8 is better than all of us. That little droid has it all. He's a first-rate copilot, experienced at prison breaks, an excellent judge of character and extremely huggable. What more could you possibly want from a droid?

From the moment he rolled by in the first teaser trailer for *The Force Awakens*, BB-8 captured the love of *Star Wars* fans everywhere. His design both invoked the astromechs we were already familiar with and brought something completely new to the table, an apt description of the movie itself too. To this day, he continues to be one of the most instantly recognizable aspects of the sequel trilogy.

Bringing the BB-8 puppet to life was very much a team effort. "Matt [Denton] made the brain, Josh [Lee] built the body and, hopefully, Dave [Chapman] and I gave it heart and soul," said puppeteer Brian Herring in an interview with StarWars.com. During filming, Chapman and Herring worked together to bring the little round droid to life, with the former standing offscreen controlling his head and the latter donning a green-screen outfit and running the droid's body around the sets. The puppeteering pair used seven different versions of BB-8 during the filming of *The Force Awakens*, each with a different purpose, and that's not even counting the version that eventually rolled down the red carpet!

It's the droid's personality just as much as his design that makes him so beloved. In another interview with StarWars.com, Herring said, "He's very loyal, but he's a biter, you know, he's feisty. And he's clever, you know, so he gets what he wants. He's tenacious and mischievous and he's tough as well." We saw all of that as BB-8 first struggled to get off of Jakku and then again on his mission with Finn and Rose and even with his partnership with Kaz Xiono in *Star Wars Resistance*. However, nothing can ever top the love and devotion between BB-8 and Poe Dameron. Who doesn't want a friendship like that in their life?

Round and determined, BB-8 is a hero of the Resistance, the best of friends and a true icon for the ages.

ADMIRAL HOLDO: EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

How to render movie audiences speechless in two easy steps: 1) Take the helm of an MC85 Star Cruiser and be the only one on board. 2) Make the jump to lightspeed through Supreme Leader Snoke's flagship, breaking it in two.

Initially introduced to *Star Wars* fans in Claudia Gray's novel *Leia, Princess of Alderaan*, Vice Admiral Amilyn Holdo excels at the unexpected. Poe Dameron was more than a bit surprised that the woman in front of him was *the* Admiral Holdo from the Battle of Chyron Belt. Amid a sea of drab olive uniforms and orange flight suits, she stood out with her form-fitting dusty purple dress with jewelry that evoked the stars above her homeworld of Gatalenta. Only General Organa dressed in a similar fancy fashion, and even she deemed Holdo "a little odd" when they first met in the Apprentice Legislature decades earlier when the Empire was still the major threat to the galaxy.

Clothes and hair color aside, Holdo also stood out in terms of leadership style. Poe was particularly caught off-balance

by how close to the chest she kept things in comparison to Resistance leaders he knew better, like Leia and Ackbar. In an interview with the *Los Angeles Times*, actress Laura Dern said director Rian Johnson initially described Holdo to her as "someone who is so steadfast that you don't know what side they're on because they don't need the rest of the world to know their plans."

After the explosive Holdo Maneuver that buys what little is left of the Resistance the time they desperately need to get to Crait, Leia sums up the Vice Admiral best to Poe: "She was more interested in protecting the light than seeming like a hero." Said Dern in the same interview with the *Los Angeles Times*, "I do think the idea of willing sacrifice, and someone's silent intent to not need to be a hero but to save everyone, is just profound… It's a deep spiritual question, in many religions too, this idea of not needing to prove who you are, but knowing it." While the personality conflicts between Holdo and Poe may have been an issue, Amilyn's willingness to do precisely that is what makes her a hero in the end, even if her methods are a bit unorthodox. But then again…this is Amilyn Holdo we're talking about. Always expect the unexpected.

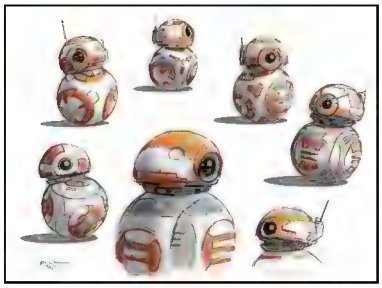
MAZ KANATA: MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

The eyes have it when it comes to Maz Kanata. That's just one of the many surprises the diminutive alien has up her sleeve, and given that she's over a thousand years old, she had the opportunity to acquire quite a lot. She's got the friendship of Chewbacca, more flags hanging over her castle than most people can identify and the Skywalker lightsaber in a box in her basement. All very normal things, of course, when you're the smuggler queen of Takodana.

For all the centuries that Maz has lived, we still don't know much about her. Even the name of her species remains an enigma. However, what we do know about her says a lot. After all, she's someone whom Han Solo trusts, and that list can't be very long. Even more fascinatingly, Maz knows about the ways of the Force even if she isn't a Jedi (or a Sith). A person can learn a heck of a lot over a millennium, and discovering how and where Maz picked up her knowledge and collections will be just as interesting as learning how far that knowledge stretches and what else she may have been hiding in the castle's storage room.

For actress Lupita Nyong'o, the part of Maz was a welcome challenge after her role as Patsey in *12 Years a Slave*. The actress not only provided the voice for Maz but also did the motion capture performance, which involved wearing a gray bodysuit, having her face completely covered in small dots and wearing a camera rig, all vastly different from her Oscar-winning role. "It was about an opportunity to do something that wasn't limited by my body," Nyong'o said in an interview on *Good Morning America*. "It's an opportunity to play in a different playing field because you get to be a different thing."

While certainly not one to cross, Maz Kanata just might be one of the best people to have in your corner. She has connections across the galaxy and is even ready to offer a little tough love to a certain Corellian smuggler when it's most needed. But she'll also, if she sees the potential in your eyes, tell you what you need to hear to help you along your journey because sometimes even the best of us need a little push toward becoming the hero they were meant to be.



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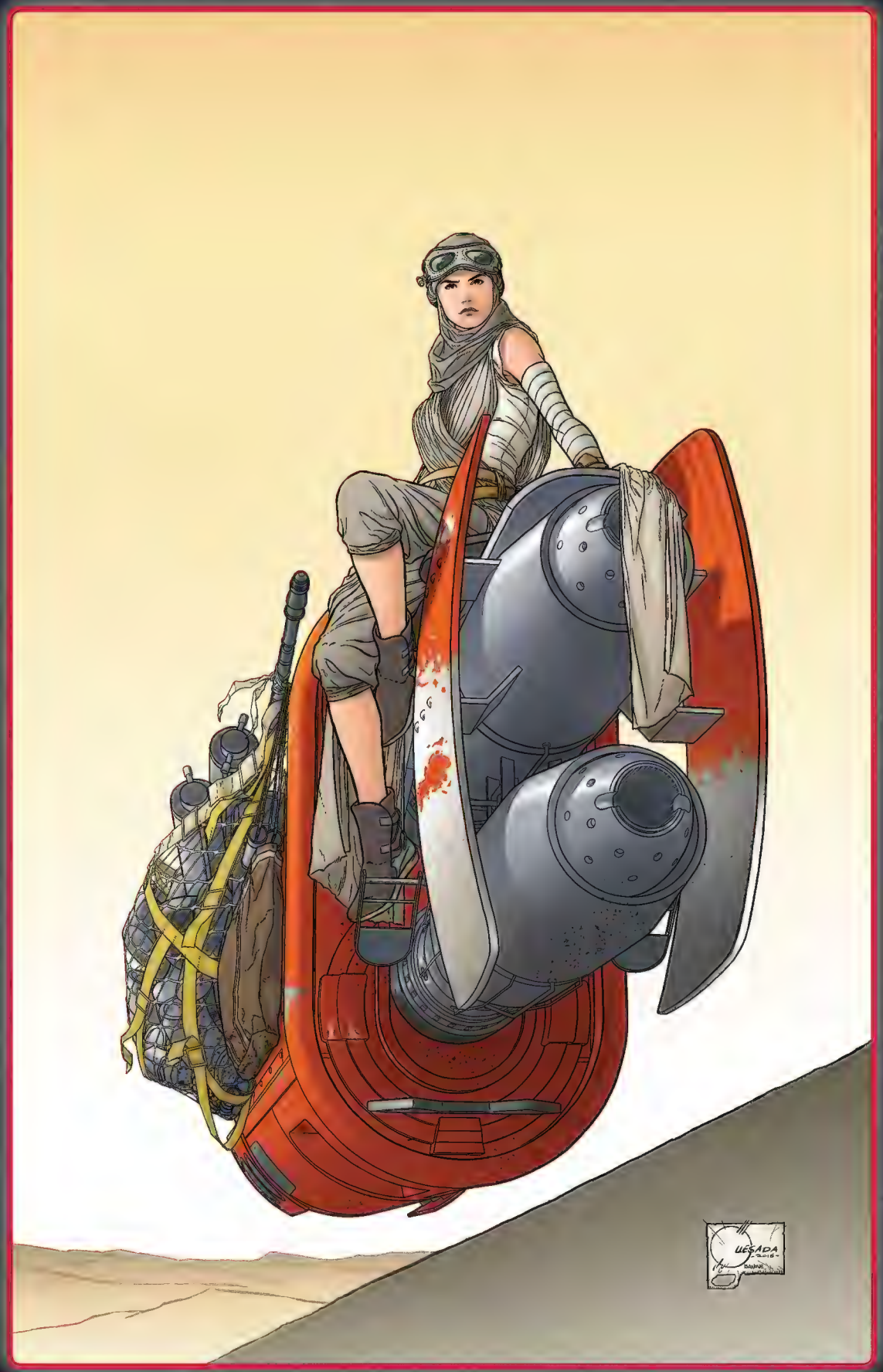

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STAR WARS: AGE OF RESISTANCE — *POE DAMERON* Concept Variant by
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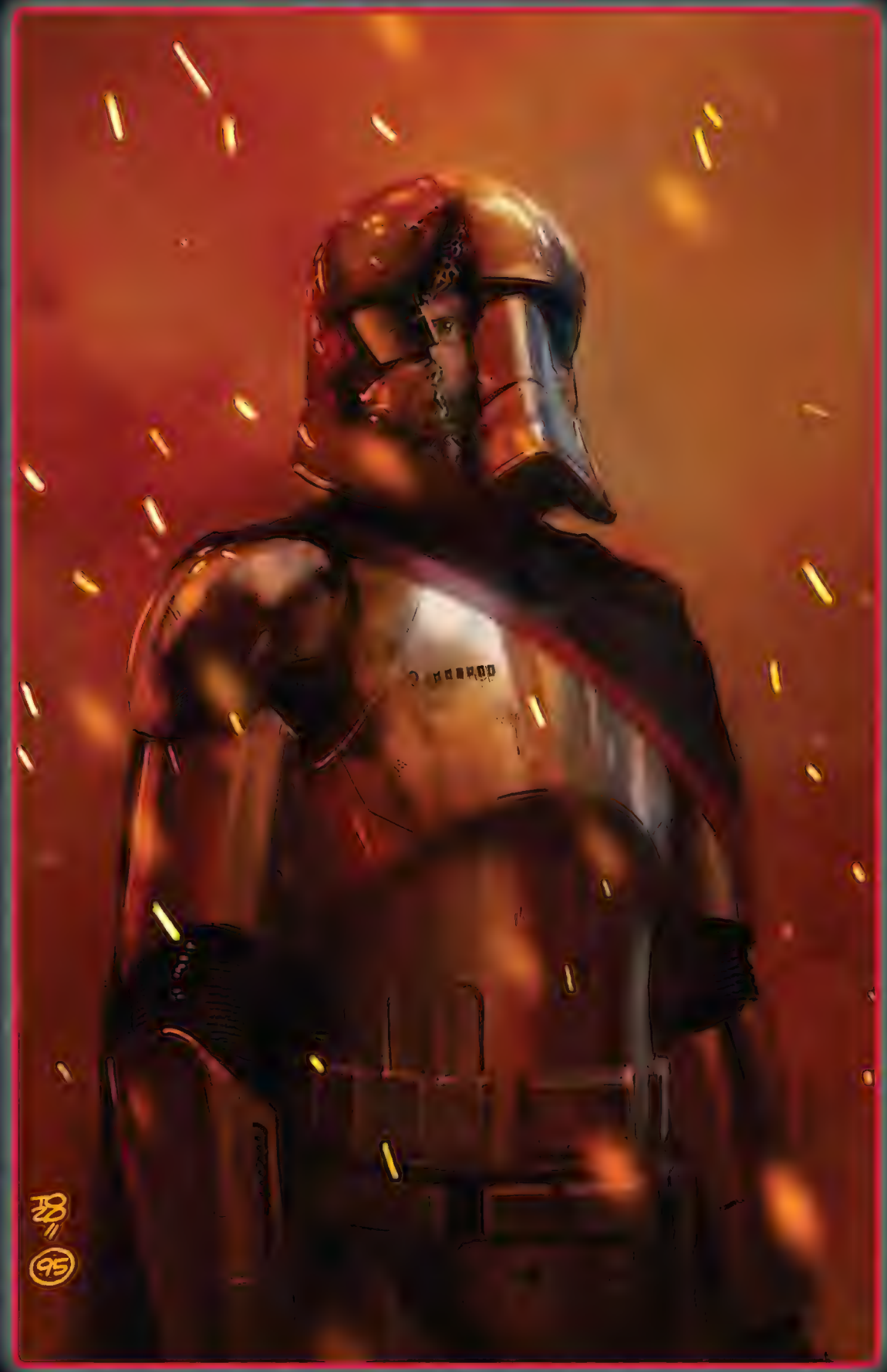

STAR WARS: AGE OF RESISTANCE — *CAPTAIN PHASMA* Concept Variant by
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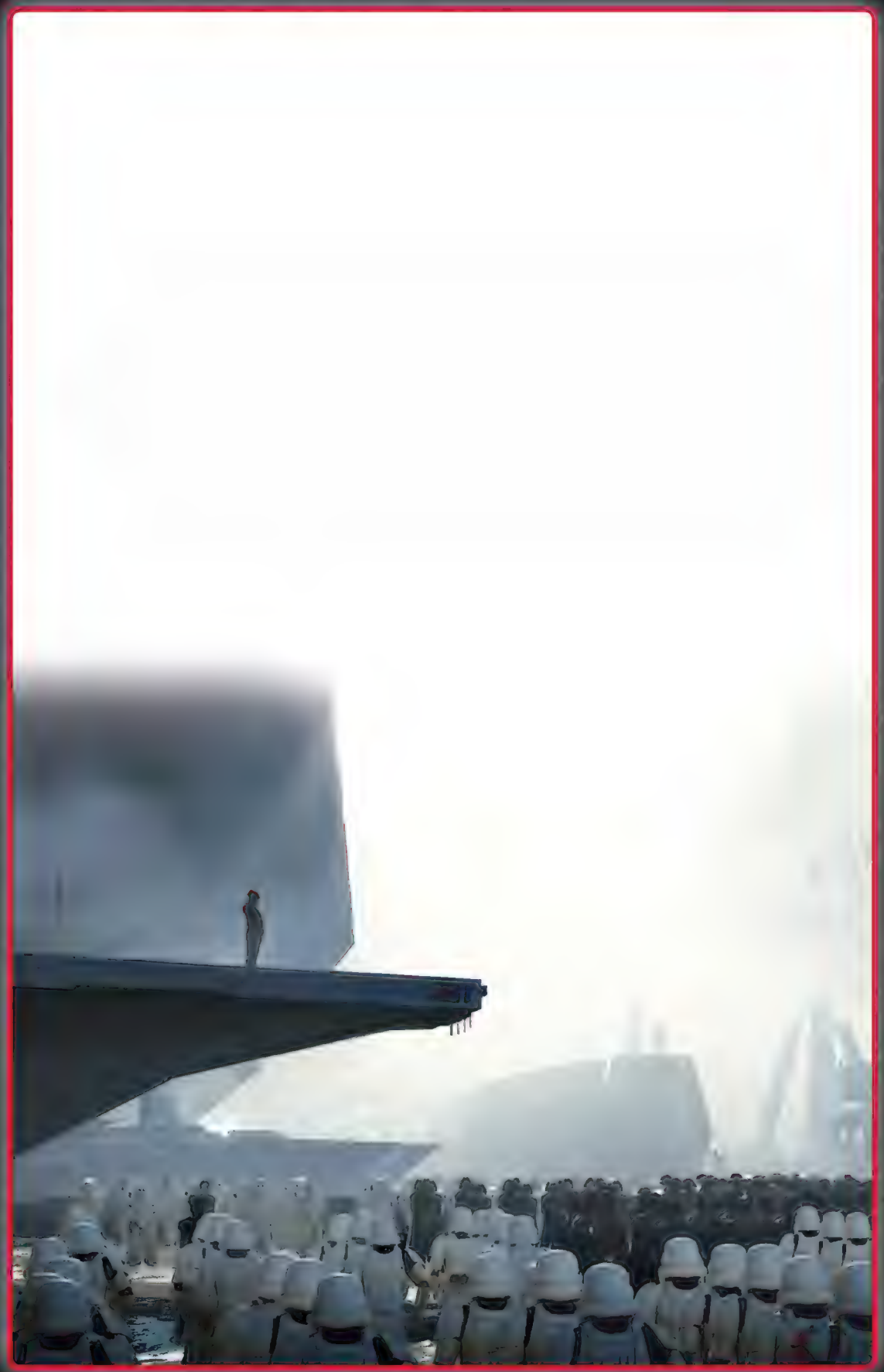

STAR WARS: AGE OF RESISTANCE — GENERAL HUX Concept Variant by
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STAR WARS: AGE OF RESISTANCE — FINN Puzzle Piece Variant by
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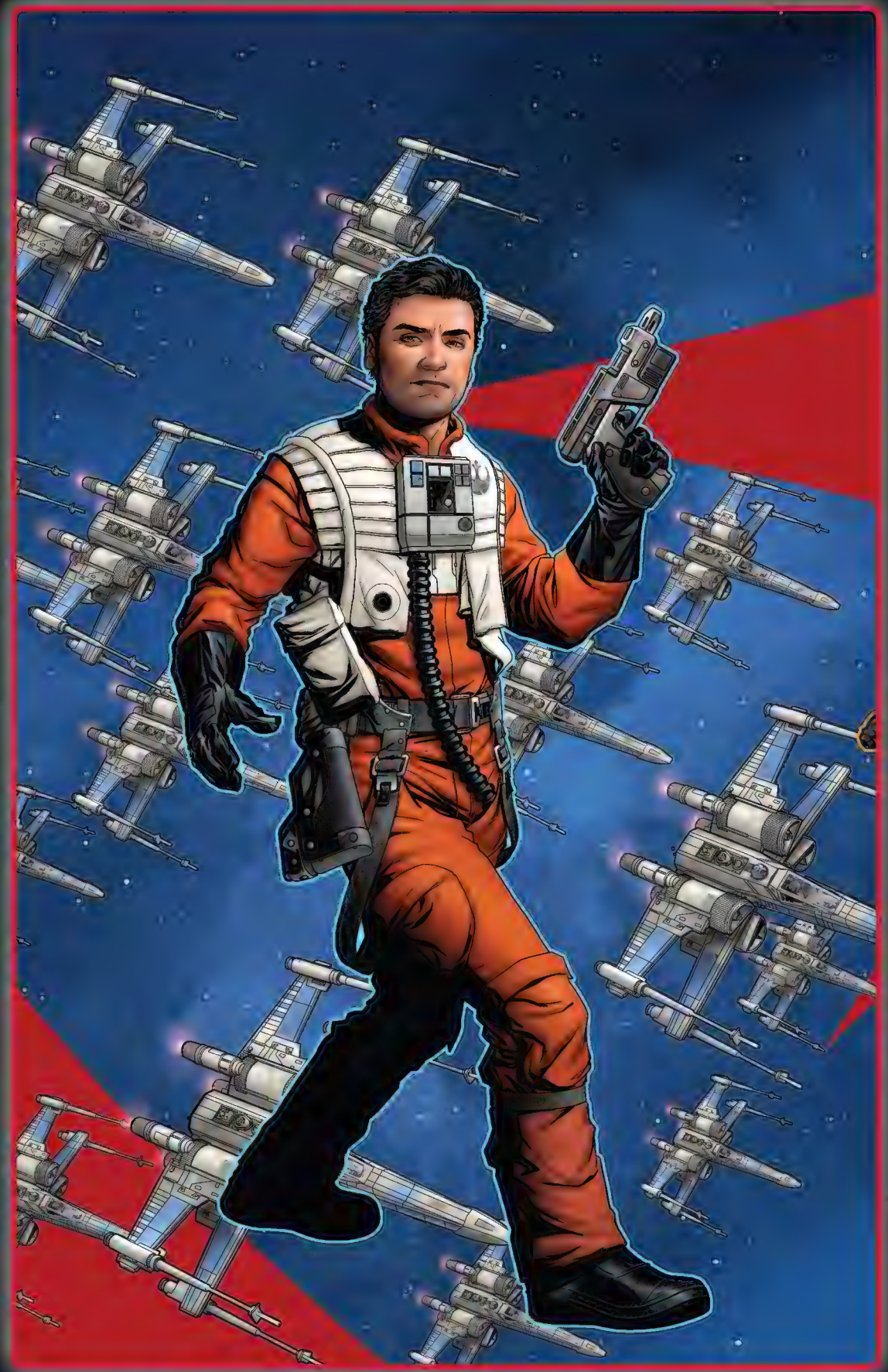

STAR WARS: AGE OF RESISTANCE — POE DAMERON Puzzle Piece Variant by
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STAR WARS: AGE OF RESISTANCE — HEROES TPB Cover by
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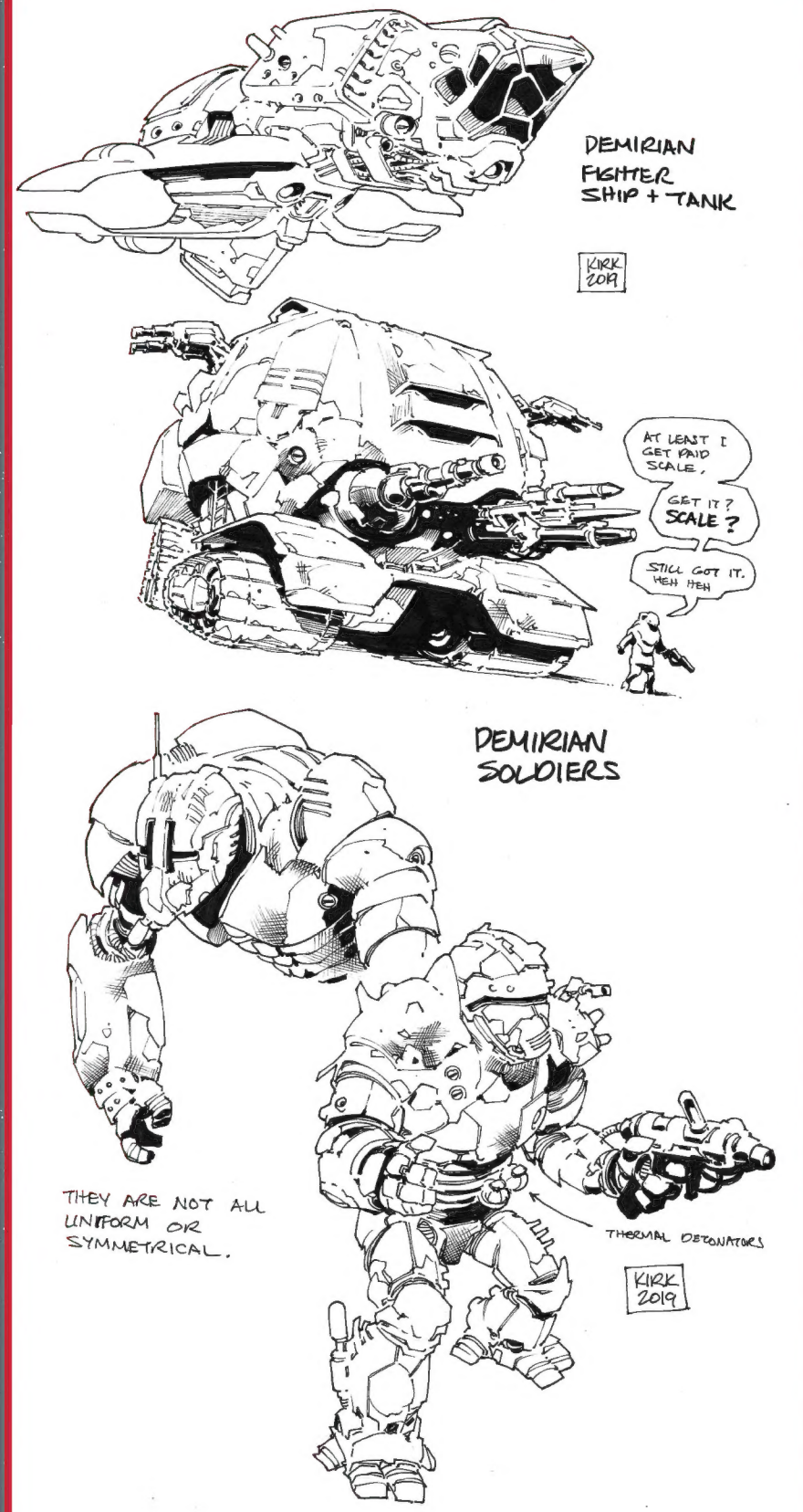

STAR WARS: AGE OF RESISTANCE — CAPTAIN PHASMA Designs by
LEONARD KIRK

***STAR WARS: AGE OF RESISTANCE*— *KYLO REN* Designs by**
LEONARD KIRK

RENEGADES AND RULERS OF THE SEQUEL ERA!

"Must-read *Star Wars* comics."

– AIPT

Fan-favorite characters from *Star Wars* Episodes VII-IX feature in new stories set during the rise of the Resistance! Stormtrooper FN-2187 — who will one day be known as Finn — shows the first stirrings of rebellion! Bold pilot Poe Dameron belongs to the stars — no matter where they lead! Young Rose Tico and her sister discover their destinies! And on the quest to find Luke Skywalker, Rey must become a scavenger once more! Meanwhile, the ruthless Supreme Leader Snoke tests his apprentice, Kylo Ren — who follows in the footsteps of Darth Vader! Captain Phasma shows why she's a stormtrooper like no other! And General Hux reveals why others underestimate him at their peril! Plus: Adventures featuring Maz Kanata, Amilyn Holdo and beloved droid BB-8!

Collecting ***Star Wars: Age of Resistance – Captain Phasma***, ***Finn***, ***General Hux***, ***Kylo Ren***, ***Poe Dameron***, ***Rey***, ***Rose Tico*** and ***Supreme Leader Snoke***; and ***Star Wars: Age of Resistance Special*** – by Tom Taylor, G. Willow Wilson, Chris Eliopoulos, Leonard Kirk, Ramon Rosanas, Matteo Buffagni, Elsa Charretier, Javier Pina, Cory Hamscher, Guru-eFX, Chris O'Halloran and Nick Filardi.

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